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Auswärtiges Amt.

Abteilung A.

14211/1

G 3467

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vom 1. März 1914

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R 19352

Englische Besitzungen in Asien No. 2.

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A 13560 pr. 20. Februar 1914 p.m.
1 Anl.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 46.

1 Anlage.

Calcutta, den 2. Februar 1914.

U. A. mit Anl. 23/2.
Generalstab
zu. 3/3. mit A. 4352.

Für Generalstab !

U. W. H. 21. FEB.

Ew. Exzellenz beehre ich mich Ausschnitt aus heutigem " Pioneer " betreffend Wachstum der muselmännischen Bevölkerung Indiens vorzulegen.

Der neue Census Report für Indien (1911) ist soeben erschienen.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Abschr. Bot. Afrika

A4352 14.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_010

Anlage zu Bericht № 46. Calcutta.

The Pioneer, February, 2. 1914.

One of the interesting facts disclosed in the Indian Census Report for 1911 was that the number of Mahomedans had risen in the decade by 6·7 per cent as compared with only 5 per cent in the case of Hindus. The Census Commissioner remarks that there is a small but continuous accession of converts from Hinduism and other religions, but he holds that the main reason for the relatively more rapid growth of Mahomedans is that they are more prolific. Mr. Gait adds:—"This may possibly be due partly to their more nourishing dietary, but the main reason is that their social customs are more favourable to a high birth-rate than those of the Hindus. They have fewer marriage restrictions, early marriage is uncommon, and widows remarry more freely. The greater reproductive capacity of the Mahomedans is shown by the fact that the proportion of married females to the total number of females aged '15—40' exceeds the corresponding proportion for Hindus. The result is that the Mahomedans have 37 children aged '0—5' to every 100 persons aged '15—40' while the Hindus have only 33. Since 1881 the number of Mahomedans in the areas then enumerated has risen by 26·4 per cent while the corresponding increase for Hindus is only 15·1 per cent." These are very remarkable figures and they can be thrown into another shape: the proportion which the Mahomedans bore to the total population of India in 1881 was 197 per 1,000, in 1911 it was 213.

In Assam since 1901 there has been an exceptionally rapid growth in the Mahomedan population, in fact no less than 20 per cent. This is due to the drift of cultivators along the course of the Brahmaputra as communications have been improved. The "hardy and prolific" Mahomedan cultivators from Mymensingh, Rangpur and Pabna have worked their way northwards: they are accustomed, we are told, to the risks arising from diluvion and devastating floods, which other cultivators are unwilling to face; and, as the *chars* already occupied fill up, the surplus population find no difficulty in securing land in the higher reaches of the river. This movement of population will probably slacken off now until more railways and roads are made in Assam. In the adjacent province of Burma the manner in which Mahomedans retain their faith unimpaired is noticed by the Census Commissioner. Hindu settlers have a tendency to become absorbed in the Buddhist population around them, but the scattered communities of Mahomedans are not similarly affected. Many of them have been in the country for several generations and they are still true to their religion. When a Mahomedan marries a Burmese woman he brings up his children in his own religion, the offspring of these mixed marriages being known as Zerbadis. The number of Mahomedans in Burma is small, but it exceeds that of Hindus and is slowly increasing.

4353 14. A 3560 14

PAAA_RZ201_019352_011

zu A 3560

U. R. nebst Anlage

dem Herrn

Chef des Generalstabs der Armee

A 3560 nebst Anl. geh. z/B. mit d. 4352.

zur Kenntnisnahme erg. übers.

mit d. Bg. m. Referat

Berlin, den 26ten Febr. 1914.

(Stpl.)

Vor Abg.

Bei

Jus 2475.

ab 23. 5. 14. 8° p. m. K. d.

Zand (A 3560 s. p. K. an Zand. orig. Anlage Kenntn. Nehmen

A. A. Ch. II. Pers. IX. 1909. I. 18.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_012

zu A 4087 J.

Ich beauftrage, um Bericht des Generalkonsuls in Calcutta wegen Aufhebung der „Englischen von Berlin" wird

Dem Herrn

Chef des Generalstabes des Heeres

A 4087 orig.

~~Abschr. der Vorlage.~~

gef. Mu. zur ....Gefl.... Kenntnisnahme erg.

gel. ------übersandt und zur Verfügung gestellt.

Berlin, den 2. ten März 1914.

(Stempel).

Betreff: Militärmachtstellung in Indien

Angel. Bericht Botschaft London vom 2.3. J Nr. 2759.

11. 2/3. 1 Uhr ab 8° pm. Red.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_013

A 4352 pr. 31. März 1914. pm.
2 Anl.

Königliches Ministerium
der auswärtigen Angelegenheiten.

A 3560.

J.Nr. 2475.

2 Anl.

U. R. nebst Anlage

A 3560 u. 1 Anl.

orig.

dem Herrn
Chef des Generalstabes der Armee

24. 2. 14.
VM

II 26/2 zur gefälligen Kenntnisnahme ergebenst übersandt.

Berlin, den 23. Februar 1914.

3. Abteilung
26 FEB 1914
Nr. 472/2

3111
-2

Kenntnis genommen
Berlin, den 3/3. 1914.
Der Chef des Generalstabes der Armee
I. A.
von Fabeck
Oberstleutnant.

v. H.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_014

Auswärtiges Amt.

Abschrift für

~~Nr.~~ ~~vom 12. 3. 14.~~

A. 4589. pr. 6. 3. 14.

mitg. 12/3 Österreich London

Inhalt: Das transpersische Bahnprojekt.

– 65. –

Calcutta, den 19. Februar 1914.
(Generalkonsulat.)

n. MM. 2/3

n. H. 2/3

Ueber die Fortschritte des transpersischen Bahnprojekts ist es in letzter Zeit in Indien recht still gewesen. Bei der Rührigkeit, mit der dessen promotors, so Mr. de Webb, Fortschritte dem publico kundzutun pflegen, ist die Annahme gerechtfertigt, daß die, besonders von militärischer Seite verfochtenen Bedenken, vorübergehend wieder einmal verlangsamend einwirken. Dem deutschen Bagdadbahn-Unternehmen steht die öffentliche Meinung, nicht nur aus Blättern, welche der Mode fröhnen, sondern aus Aeusserungen von Männern der Zentralregierung zu schliessen, jetzt freundlicher gegenüber. Der große Gewinn, den England aus den jüngsten Balkanwirren zur Festigung seiner Stellung am persischen Meerbusen zu ziehen wusste, wird heute noch nicht im vollen Mass erkannt. Wenn der kühle Verstand in London regiert, so liegt wohl kein Anlaß vor, diese Vorteile und eine sich auf Arabien ausbreitende Suprematie durch eine wirtschaftlich unrentable und strategisch bedenkliche Bahn zu gefärden. Es hat wohl kaum je ein verkehrstechnisch ungenialeres Projekt gegeben als das, welches Menschen und Ware durch den Wüstensand Balutchistans und des Mekran nach den Steppen und Oeden Persiens und dann, nach Spurwechsel, in die Sackgasse des Schwarzen Meeres befördern will, um ihnen den Weg von Indien nach Zentraleuropa und England zu erleichtern. Die eingestandenen

Engl. Bot. Wien 2

PAAA_RZ201_019352_015

standenen und einseitigen Interessen Rußlands an diesem Projekt sind so hervortretend, daß man englischerseits die Mitwirkung hierzu lediglich als Kompensationsobjekt oder karitativen Liebesdienst buchen sollte. Das Argument, das ich des öfteren höre, ist: this connection is bound to come, why not have it now? Ernsthafter als diese Logik ist die Erwägung, welchevon Persien ausgeht und zur Kompensation des russischen Vorstoßes von Djulfa und dem Lenkoran ein linking-up der persischen Bahnen mit Indien fordert. Will England den in unseren Zeiten unersetzlichen wirtschaftlichen Einfluß auf Persien gewinnen, so kommt nur eine Verbindung, die von Nuw-Chaman ausgeht und welche heute am Widerstand Afghanistans scheitert, in Betracht. Diese nächstliegende Verbindung wird überdies von den Militärs mit Veto belegt. Die elende Mekran-trace stellt also die aus Mittelmässigkeit und Kompromissen geborene Resultante dar, welche wirtschaftlichen und strategischen Bedenken gerecht werden will. Sir Henry McMahon, der frühere, jetzt in Urlaub gehende Leiter des auswärtigen Ressorts, hatte diese Verhältnisse und russischen Aspirationen, die wir einmal auf einem Ritt formlos erörterten, klar durchschaut. Ich habe jedoch Zweifel, ob er seine Anschauung bei Lord Hardinge durchzusetzen vermag. Der Vicekönig glaubt durch konzentrische Verstärkung britischen Einflusses in Rußland, durch Entgegenkommen, Beteiligung, gemeinsame Konten und neue Brücken nach Rußland den vordrängenden Koloß am besten abzuwehren. Er glaubt durch solche Taktik auch allein England vor Parteinahmen und Notlagen zu bewahren, zu derjenigen Aktionsfreiheit gegenüber europäischen Problemen zu befähigen, die er, als intimer Berater König Edwards und

wohl

PAAA_RZ201_019352_016

wohl mehr unter dessen charme stehend als seinen Herrn beeinflussend, noch unter diesem Gesichtswinkel ansehen mag.

Es ist vom Standpunkt deutscher Interessen in Indien zu hoffen, daß die Bagdadbahn, nach Erledigung der politischen Vorarbeit und nachdem nunmehr der europäische Markt seine Aufnahmefähigkeit erneuert hat, geräuschlos und energisch vorgetrieben wird. Es liegt darin eine nicht zu verkennende Pression auf die britisch-russische Freundschaft und auf die Zukunft des Mekran-Kerman Bahnprojekts. Eine bis Basra vollbetriebsfähige, in Konstantinopel Anschluss findende Bahn wird sowohl auf Post wie auf Passagiere ganz anders anziehend wirken, als transpersische Projekte, zumal wenn zwischen Karachi und Basra (oder Koweit-Kasima) schnelle Dampfer laufen werden. Daß das Gros der Passagiere und der enorme indoeuropäische Warenverkehr jemals von einer Bahn angezogen und den Schiffahrtslinien abwendig gemacht werden könne, ist aus verschiedenen Gründen nicht anzunehmen.

Der Einfluß der Faktoren, also der Türkei und Deutschlands, welche eine alternative und beschleunigte Verkehrsader nach Indien beherrschen, wird trotzdem stark wachsen. Es ist dies für uns handelspolitisch und auch sonst nicht ohne Bedeutung. Schon heute gibt es unter den besten Köpfen Indiens solche, die einsehen, daß England sein indisches Reich ohne deutsche Sympathien nicht wird behaupten können. Indische Probleme werden in der Zukunft von Jahrzehnten, vielleicht früher, voraussichtlich eine bedeutsame Rolle spielen, wenn man erwägt, wie das erst vor einem Jahrzehnt geschlagene und erschöpfte Rußland heute wieder zu eisenbahnpolitischer und militärischer Aktion in Asien voll ausholt. Die ursprünglich angefeindete, heute tolerirte, später

PAAA_RZ201_019352_017

ter vielleicht von England gepriesene Bagdadlinie ist berufen, Interessen abzugrenzen und abgegrenzte zu verbinden.

gez. Luxburg.

Seiner Excellenz dem Reichskanzler Herrn von Bethmann Hollweg.

orig. i. a. Kaiserin 14.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_018

Zollkarte zu
Weinpaketen-Verzeichnis

PAAA_RZ201_019352_019

A. 4590 pr. 6. März 1914. p.m.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 86

Calcutta, den 19. Februar 1914.

mtg. 10/3. London 400
Petersbg 218
Bagdad A1
Teheran A15

U. Pl. St. 7. MRZ

Der Foreign Secretary Sir Henry McMahon geht Ende März auf Urlaub. Zu seinem Vertreter ist Sir Percy Cox, früher Resident und Generalkonsul in Bagdad bestellt worden.

Lt.Colonel Grey ist zum politischen Agenten in Koweit ernannt worden.

Der Deputy Secretary im Foreign Department, Mr. Reynolds, wird während seines 12 monatlichen Urlaubs durch Major St.John vertreten werden.

Der Director of Commercial Intelligence, Mr. Noël-Paton geht gleichfalls auf Urlaub. An seine Stelle tritt Mr. A.H. Ley, I.C.S.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_020

Berlin, den 10. März 1914

zu A. 4591 / 92 / 93 } I

Sarburg

Calcutta 8.V.14.

+ A 17185 m. Zell coll. Ra

A 10091 - A 8555 -

Zunächst (Bestätigung auf ~~unsere~~ folgt u. 26 Kisten u. 76. - Nr. 34 ± - bezüg. unsere, erstere in Sp. pp. - erg., die für unter beifolgenden Frachtbriefen und dem beigefügten Begleitschreiben weiter zu leiten zu wollen.)

R. d.

i. m.

Jn 11/3

J. N.: 3216.

12/3. Abtl. vorgelegt

Jn 11/3

Angl. auf Akten u. abzuschl. 149 / 91 / 91

mit Verfügung begl. auf Schreiben vom 14/3

PAAA_RZ201_019352_021

Berlin, den 14. März 1914.

zu A.4591, 4592, 4593.

Generalkonsulat

Calcutta.

Unter Bezugnahme auf den Erlaß A.Nr.14 vom 12.d.Mts. übersendet dem pp.das untersetchnete Bureau in höherem Auftrage die anliegenden vier Preßausschnitte.

Chiffrierbureau.

(Stempel.)

jung. 4 Abl. zu A.4593.

J.No. 3350

ab 14/3 8½ pm. P. ef.

4 Druckanl.

Empf. bed. Apm 2

PAAA_RZ201_019352_022

zu A 4591/3

Vg. Ok

Wollen Sie heute aus Calcutta
ohne Aufschreiben eingegangenen
Meldung. 4 Zeitungs-Ausschnitte
im Hinblick auf den gestrigen
Schlag nach Calcutta eingebringen
werden?

4

Ich glaube
bei aus der
Sachlage nicht
Grund ist es geh
zweckgleich, als auch
A.

Ok
bei 14/3

Zentral-Büro.
13/3

Sie sollen
Geheimrat und Legationsrat
[illegible] Feldes [illegible] ist
[illegible]

A 4591/3 Geg. 6/3 [illegible] Geheimrat
[illegible] 1413

[illegible] 171
[illegible] Ok

PAAA_RZ201_019352_023

6077 pr. 21. März 1914. pm 1 Anl.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 86.

[1 Anlage.]

Calcutta, den 9. Maerz 1914.

London
mit Dy
London 563

U. d. Gl. 6. APR.

Den Autoren des New Delhi scheme ist in den letzten Februartagen in der hiesigen Chamber of Commerce sowie von den leitenden Blättern Calcuttas gründlich die Meinung der abgedankten Hauptstadt gesagt worden. Mr. Shorrock, der Chefpartner von George Henderson & Co und derzeitiger Präsident des führenden Bengal-Clubs hat in eindrucksvoller Rede die Frivolität der Ausgabe vieler Millionen Pfund für Paläste, Strassen und den künstlichen See einer neuen, nur während einiger Wochen im Jahre benützten Hauptstadt an den Pranger gestellt, während Eisenbahnen, Sanitäts-& Schulwesen dringend finanzieller Hülfe bedürfen und während eine durch Trockenheit hervorgerufene distress weite Distrikte Indiens heimsuche. Einige Argumente sind neu aufgefasst und treffend formuliert. Die Handelskammer hat sich der motion einstimmig angeschlossen.

[Pressbericht liegt bei.]

In

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Kriegl. Dep. Ablem. 2

PAAA_RZ201_019352_024

In Delhi haben diese Dinge, wie ich mich überzeugen durfte, so gut wie gar keinen Eindruck gemacht. Die einzige Folge, während der bis zum Herbst 1915 sich erstreckenden Regierung Lord Hardinge's, dürfte sein, dass das India Office auf eine gewisse Sparsamkeit dringt, welcher andererseits der leitende Architekt, Lutyens, sich zu entziehen mit Erfolg bestrebt ist. Sein Standpunkt ist ungefähr der, dass dem Genie keine Fesseln angelegt werden dürfen und dass Indien sehr reich sei.

Es ist eine nicht unerhebliche Beobachtung, dass in Indien die Zahl der Freunde des Delhi-scheme sich zusehends verringert. Der legitimste Vater des Gedankens, Sir John Jenkins, ist gestorben. Er ist es gewesen, der den damals wohl in den Künsten der Diplomatie erfahrenen aber in der Kunst der Verwaltung eines grossen asiatischen Reiches von über 300 Millionen ihm gänzlich unbekannter Einwohner erfahrungslosen Statthalter angestiftet hat, die sonst nur dem König und dem Council bekannte Idee mittels Ueberraschung zu verwirklichen. Dass diese mise en scène, bei welcher der Monarch ungebührlich in den Vordergrund gerückt wurde, mangelhaft gewesen, ist heute die Ueberzeugung Aller. Ich glaube zu wissen, dass Seine Majestät der König selbst der Ansicht ist, dass ihm die Absicht sämtliche Funktionen der Hauptstadt aus Calcutta nach Delhi zu verlegen, fremd war. Ich möchte mir mit nur einjähriger Erfahrung im Land kein Urteil über Nutzen und

Not-

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Notwendigkeit der Massnahme gestatten. Es ist aber zu konstatieren, dass selbst Members of Council, welche seinerzeit dafür stimmten, heute mit gewissen Bedenken nicht zurückhalten. Von prominenten Engländern, etwa dem Präsident und Mitgliedern der Public services Commission waren auch nicht freundliche Urteile zu hören. Lord Islington hielt mit dem Urteil nicht zurück. Lord Ronaldshay, der eldest son des Marquis of Zetland, der in ganz Asien viel gereist ist, einen Londoner Wahlkreis im Parlament vertritt und entschiedene Aspirationen auf die vizekönigliche Würde zeigt, hat mir gegenüber bei einem Jagdausflug aus seinen Gedanken auch kein Hehl gemacht. Der kluge, jedoch gealterte und kränkelnde Sir Valentine Chirol, welcher sehr in der Intimität des Vizekönigs steht, soll sich auch in diesem Jahr zurückhaltender geäussert haben wie vordem.

Es wird hier der Versuch gemacht werden, im Parlament die Regierung weiter zu interpellieren und auf den Standpunkt zu drängen, dass Delhi die ceremonial capital werden und bleiben solle. Der Finanzminister, vielleicht der kompetenteste Beurteiler der Frage in Indien, meinte neulich, die Antwort der Regierung in London auf die letzte Interpellation könne er nicht als glücklich bezeichnen. Die angegebene Summe für New Delhi stelle nur einen Bruchteil aller wirklichen Kosten dar, die sich insgesamt wohl mit 7-8 Millionen £ bestreiten lassen würden. Höhere Schätzungen

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Schätzungen will er nicht anerkennen. Mit Rücksicht auf die oben erwähnte Démarche der hiesigen Handelskammer äusserte er sich dahin, dass er einen grossen Vorteil darin sehe, wenn der Vizekönig und die Zentralregierung aus einer Stadt entrückt seien, wo die europäische und bengalische Bevölkerung sich so oppositionell gegenüberstehen und beide den Vizekönig zu beeinflussen bestrebt sind.

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every mile of distance until the amount of the burden upon the finances of the country pounds, if realised, to constitute little short of a grave public scandal.

It is true the sanction of the Government of India has, so far as we yet know, not been formally given to any actual building specifications or general lay-out schemes, but reports and rumours of extravagant ideas have been freely circulated and are viewed in this city with profound misgivings. Proposals for a new ceremonial Railway Station to provide State entries and exits have been deliberately put forward involving an expenditure of nearly a million sterling which would go far in providing port facilities in India and in our own case new jetties at Garden Reach. Money is being spent and will continue to be spent on miles of non-productive road making that would be a godsend to roadless Assam and Burma, whilst the outlay to be incurred by proposed schemes of artificial lakes and landscape gardening would suffice to irrigate a whole district in some of the waterless tracts of Northern India.

If this intention to create a new Imperial City of Delhi on such a scale be persisted in it is patent to any one who takes the trouble to consider the matter at all that it is going to cost India a colossal sum of money, of which the £2,800,000 represent only the first direct payment on account and for what purpose? Merely to provide an official residence for the Government of India for a few weeks in every year. Has such an astounding idea any parallel elsewhere in the world and is there any record of a successful city being built to order? Washington has been instanced as an example but Americans ridicule the idea of there being the slightest analogy in the conditions of their capital and those of Delhi. Even in Australia, where conditions are again quite different from India, the experiment of Canberra which after all is to be a whole-time capital appears to arouse no enthusiasm, and so far as the Union of South Africa is concerned we have heard of no clamour being raised for a new site for its Supreme Government. The Union is satisfied with Pretoria, corresponding to Delhi as the ceremonial capital, and with Cape Town, the most important port and trade centre, corresponding to Calcutta as the seat of the legislature. On the other hand, if people desire to see a failure in actual capital-making, I am informed they need only compare the busy thoroughfares of Buenos Ayres with the grass-grown streets of the neighbouring statutory headquarters of the provincial Government at La Plata.

Now, Gentlemen, if the cause were good no one would grudge the Government of India incurring reasonable expenditure in order to make the existing city of Delhi more worthy of its present position in the Indian Empire, but the cause is not good and we are not only asked as taxpayers to subscribe to huge and unnecessary expenditure but are also asked to do so upon a scheme that carried the disapproval of the great majority of commercial opinion in India. It is nearly two years since this Chamber unanimously and strongly protested against the severance of commerce and administration in this country and events during the subsequent period have more than confirmed the views then expressed as to the difficulties, misconceptions and misunderstandings that would arise therefrom. Time has also in no way minimised the menace and danger to the future development of the country threatened by a continuation of such severance.

Calcutta is the Imperial trade and financial centre of India and the Supreme Government of India is one of the greatest commercial Governments in the world, quite apart from its administrative functions. I do not desire to labour this argument, but for the sake of those who perhaps do not quite realise its whole truth there are one or two salient points to which I must briefly refer. In the first place Calcutta stands pre-eminent amongst the other commercial cities of India as the headquarters of most of the East India merchants of London who directly and indirectly represent the bulk of England's great financial stake in this country. Where large mercantile institutions have many branches scattered over India, the head office will generally be found in Calcutta. I think I am also right in saying that the senior officers on foreign service of the London Banks are stationed in this city, and we know that the sphere of influence covered by the Bank of Bengal extends over every province of India, Madras alone excepted. The home of the great indigenous Steam Ship Cos. of India is in Calcutta and their administration often as you know involves complications of an international character.

The chief commercial functions possessed by the Government of India in addition to being the only arbiter in Commercial legislation and taxation are its practical control and ownership of all railways and its position as the chief Bankers of the country in holding a monopoly of the Rupee. Under such conditions is it, therefore, surprising that the bulk of the Bengal Chamber's dealings on behalf of its members and its correspondence is with the Government of India and not with the Government of Bengal. The presidential form of government is not suited to an Commercial Bengal, in my opinion, could regard with greater equanimity the administration of Bengal from say Dacca and Darjeeling than the administration of India from Delhi and Simla. The Government of Bengal in matters financial and commercial can only help and assist us, it is a purely administrative Government and is endowed with no executive powers to deal with all these constantly arising problems that directly affect a business community whose sphere of influence and whose operations are confined, not by the boundaries of a single Province, but by the shores and mountains of all India. All such executive powers which are impossible of delegation or decentralization are vested in the Supreme Government of this country, it holds in its own hands all executive functions relating to commerce and finance, it is itself as I have said an actual co-partner in India's industrial scheme, yet it has taken the extraordinary step of withdrawing itself into the nefarious cut of from its old and frequent intercourse with independent commercial public opinion both European and Indian, cut of from all that expert legislation on multifarious subjects which can only be found in the neighbourhood of a great High Court like that of Bengal and cut off from all contact with the Consular bodies of other nations, whose Consul-Generals make Calcutta their headquarters and with whose countries India's commercial relations are nowadays rapidly becoming more intimate.

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole circumscribed world marvels as to why it was done and asks what were the reasons for doing it. The only reason I have ever seen put forward is to the effect that the Government of India can be more impartial to India away from Calcutta, which, if it is a reason at all, should be applicable to Great Britain where the Court of St. James, the Cabinet and the Houses of Parliament should be relegated to the central zone of the Isle of Man, in order to counteract the influence of the City and allay the jealous feeling which might be alleged to exist between London, Edinburgh and Dublin. The argument is absurd. If the Government of India persists in retaining their business and banking departments at Simla and Delhi the only influence outside their own bureaucratic atmosphere which will surround them in the years to come will be not the influence of their own non-official fellow countrymen, not the influence of the Indian mercantile and professional communities who attend to their own affairs but the baneful influence of the professional political agitator. I leave you to realise what that means.

This danger of losing touch with the independent public opinion of the great trade centres may not always manifest itself at once, but it is a menace to the good administration of India and no amount of touring can make up for it. The financial troubles in western and northern India are still fresh in your minds. The Bank of Bengal, with whom I have the honour to be closely associated, very quickly realised that these troubles might develop into something much more serious. To avert such a catastrophe was its object, for the Bank have always recognised that in addition to being a mere banking institution it has duties and responsibilities to the general public greater perhaps than those of an ordinary bank. Large as the resources of the Bank may be there are limitations imposed upon it by its Charter that must restrict its action in times of crisis and unaided by the Government of India it could not hope to be in a position to even attempt to stem the tide of anything like a panic in the Indian Money Market. At the time these financial troubles were taking place the high executive officers of the Finance Department were in Simla and the Comptroller-General had been transferred from Calcutta to Delhi, where he was in the unfortunate position of hearing nothing and knowing little. For a few anxious days it may have been longer, the Bank was unable to do what it wanted to do quickly because it had to get into touch with the highest financial authorities in India. Ultimately the result of consultation and advice was most satisfactory, and I desire to take this public opportunity of recording the readiness and willingness of the Government of India to support the Bank of Bengal as soon as the Government of India grasped the situation.

FINANCIAL DANGER.

But notwithstanding this happy solution, the lesson vividly brought home to us during those anxious days is the financial danger that to-day exists in consequence of the breaking up by the Delhi changes of the intimate relations and opportunities for constant personal intercourse between the best financial centre and the Government of India. To those who were behind the scenes the Delhi changes convey a sense of insecurity and it is difficult to imagine what might not have happened with a less sympathetic Financial Member or one less prompt in grasping the situation.

WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM?

Gentlemen, the Financial Department of the Government of India is the most powerful of all the Government Departments—it is the one in which we have chief concern for it controls the purse strings. Our attitude towards it, as during the recent Indian Finance controversy, is one not of criticism but of co-operation. Heavy demands are about to be made upon it for productive works throughout India. I am not going to attempt to enter into the details of such works which are well known and are urgently demanded by every Province, by every railway and by every port of India. The problem before us all is where is the money to come from? We have had a series of years of plenty, but large surpluses seem to have been frittered away with nothing to show for them, whilst it has been the strong opinion of every Chamber throughout India that railways during that period have been deliberately starved in spite of the recommendations of influential Commissions. And now a series of less plentiful years may synchronise with even greater demands for capital expenditure on productive works. It is also a well-known fact that the evidence tendered before the Royal Commission on the Public Services points to recommendations involving increased administrative costs and charges. The cry all over India is for sanitary improvements and purer supplies of drinking water. But allotments for productive works are already being restricted and only in one direction does it appear that money can be poured out like water, namely in an attempt to attain the impossible and create a new capital city over the proposed site of which the spectre of famine already hovers.

There are only two cities in modern India that can ever be the real capital, —one is Calcutta and the other is Bombay—and with a British administration ruling India, the overwhelming advantages lie with Calcutta quite apart from her own memories and traditions. It is therefore clear that the transfer of the capital of India from Calcutta to such an ill-adapted and inconvenient place as Delhi is more than a costly experiment; it has already proved itself to be from every point of view and in the short space of two years a lamentable political failure, and I trust this Chamber will strongly protest and go on protesting against squandering money to make Delhi anything more than a purely ceremonial capital, and will demand and continue to demand that the day's work of the business departments of the Government of India and of the Imperial Legislative Sessions shall again be transacted in the natural Capital of British India, her premier city of Calcutta.

MR. NORMAN McLEOD.

THE Hon. Mr. Norman McLeod, in seconding the resolution, said:—Being good churchmen, you have all read that a man does not build a house without counting the cost thereof, and being good citizens you have also read that, in the Imperial Council not long ago, Sir Robert Carlyle stated that the Government were unable—for reasons unknown to us—to divulge the cost of the New Capital. Therefore in seconding this resolution, moved by my friend the Hon. Mr. Shorrock with his characteristic fearlessness and incisiveness, I find myself in entire accord with the line he has adopted. We have not met here to denounce the fact of the transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi—let that remain an accomplished fact for the present. Let us clear discussion from all the extraneous matter that can possibly obscure or obstruct our objective, let us single out and define one simple and simple issue, viz.: "Aye" or "No." "Shall the revenues and resources of this country be depleted in setting up a new Delhi on a scale of wasteful expenditure never contemplated when His Imperial Majesty was graciously pleased to make his fateful pronouncement?"

WHAT THE FAMOUS DESPATCHES SAY.

In approaching and dealing with this issue it is pertinent, and it therefore behoves us, to turn to these famous despatches, since published, which led up to that pronouncement. There we find arguments formulated and laboured in an unconvincing justification of the transfer, but the only argument or statement that immediately concerns us now is that the expenditure involved was in the region of four millions sterling.

It is true we have all seen the answer made by the newly appointed Under-Secretary to a question asked in Parliament as to the cost of the transfer. Why, one item alone, that of buildings, is put down as the enormous sum of £2,800,000, but he is carefully and guardedly silent as to the rest, and the buildings are but a part of the proposed outlay. If the matter were not so serious, it makes one almost laugh at the devices being resorted to by the present authorities, who deceive themselves and the public into believing that the cost of the transfer is to be a comparative nothing. We cannot, however, help smiling at the coincidence that the meagre information now given should almost synchronise with this meeting.

GOVERNMENTS OBSTINATE SILENCE.

Even those relatively modest estimates are to our minds prohibitive, but what are we to think and say when Government maintains an obstinate silence, tantamount to confession, under repeated questioning, that their grandiose schemes will entail an ultimate outlay in which four millions fades into insignificance. It may be, nay we are almost certain that some figures of expenditure on Delhi will appear in the coming Budget. But we want more; we want to know the detail of the exact amount already spent consequent on the transfer and what further possible and probable expenditure it is proposed to foist on the country; we want to know not only the cost of the City itself but also what the contingent expenses are to be, the cost of the extravagant proposed railway terminus, and in fact every rupee the transfer involves, whether it be at Delhi, Dacca, Barhpore or Calcutta. In connection with the Railway terminus, we are told it will ultimately cost nearly a crore of rupees. To the ordinary mortal, such a vast expenditure, for no lasting purpose, and for no special renumerative benefit to the country seems the height of folly, and more particularly when we know that a tin station at Simla serves the whole of the Government of India including their visitors. Does it not require some explanation—and very full explanation?

RECKLESS SPIRIT OF WANTON EXTRAVAGANCE.

We have the right to this information; we have the right to demand it; or are we not going to contribute, and contribute to no small extent? Surely the time has come when such information is available. If not, does not my text apply with remarkable force? Does it not remind you of our Aryan brother, who, when he goes to build to himself a house, first builds an elaborate gate and then trusts to the special god, whom he invokes for design, money and all else connected therewith! Why, rumour has it that, so far, large sums have already been spent on provisional operations alone, which do not come within the perfected scheme. This is but one instance of the reckless spirit of wanton extravagance that permeates the authors and creators of the policy to which this country is on the eve of being committed irretrievably and recklessly. Consider for a moment what even the expenditure of four millions means.

DEAD LOSS TO THE COUNTRY.

It is a dead loss to this country each year at 3½% of £140,000 or 21 lakhs of rupees. Whereas a similar amount spent on Railways would give a net profit of about £200,000 or 30 lakhs of rupees. If spent on Irrigation the nett revenue on a very moderate calculation would be £3,00,000 or 54 lakhs of rupees: and this apart altogether from the direct advantages of increased transport facilities, diminished misery, reduced famine expenditure and also all the indirect gains which would accrue to a policy calculated for the good of the people. If the cost, as we have reason to believe, is to be greater than the sum mentioned, so much greater will be the loss, and infinitely so much greater the profits, if it were spent on reproductive works to the benefit of the country.

PLIGHT OF THE COUNTRY.

Those things of Government (theoretically every member is implicated) may be likened unto those of a man, old enough to know better, who deserts his lawful and faithful spouse for a more piquant, and therefore, to him, a more attractive mate, with whom he is so enamoured and infatuated that on her he showers not only his own pelf but also the riches he holds as trustee for wife and family, heartlessly relegating them—for all he cares—to a wasting penury! Such will be the plight not only of Calcutta—the discarded wife—but also of every corner of India (as family—unless which yet there is time, they unite in a common effort to turn Government aside from its avowed purpose of plunging the country into prodigal expenditure wholly incommensurate with its purse or needs.

GILDED CHAIR FOR SENIOR PARTNER.

It is an open secret that the Services Commission will recommend the expenditure of large sums on the betterment of the administrative machinery of Government. It is easily conceivable, under the present régime, that such necessary recommendations may be pigeon-holed on the ground that funds cannot be forthcoming for the purpose. Gentlemen, you are all business-men. Would you prefer to spend your money on a gilded chair for your senior partner than to spend it on the improvement, contentment and general welfare of your staff? The question requires no answer.

THOUGHTFUL WORDS.

It was only the other day that an Indian member of the Imperial Legislative Council, in speaking on the subject of Postal Reform, said:—

"The principal factor which should determine a question like this involving a heavy extra outlay is this: Can India, in her present situation, take up such a question seriously? Can she indulge in the luxury of an improved or bi-weekly mail service when her present internal needs are varied and various, requiring vast sums of money? Can she think of it now when we are threatened with the spectre of famine in some portions of the United Provinces and with the possibility of its extension to other parts of the country?"

WHERE IS THE SOLOMON?

These were thoughtful words from a thoughtful man. The sum involved was only a drop in the bucket in comparison to what is proposed to be spent on a Gilbertian Capital at Delhi.

The action of my friend, Mr. Shorrock, and myself is, according to a newspaper of some repute in Bombay and from whom we might have expected more serious argument, compared to the twittering of sparrows round King Solomon's temple. It may be so, but the pertinent question in this case aptly arises, where is the Solomon? The analogy is scarcely happy, for, from our reading of the history of that date, the extravagant building mentioned was all to the "glory of Solomon," and whether the advantages to his people were commensurate is open to grave doubt. And is it not a well-established fact that a great many of the most magnificent palaces of the world were built at the expense of the ruin of the people? Does it not seem passing strange, that, in this enlightened age and under our benign rule, the present Government should be partice to the emulation of such pernicious examples of misgovernment? I do not for a moment suggest, or ask you to believe, that the inception of the transfer to Delhi was for similar vain reasons, but I do say that we in this Chamber consider that the transfer, on present financial lines, was a mistake, and a mistake which ought to be remedied before serious consequences ensue.

A FERVENT APPEAL.

In appealing, as we do, for support to all sorts and conditions of our fellow-subjects—officials and non-officials alike —we would make it known, whatever may be said to the contrary, that in taking the lead we are not actuated by any motives of selfishness or chagrin —we are working wholly and solely for the common weal of all India and her peoples, native, domiciled and transitory. Commercially and socially, and in wealth, Calcutta stands, and will ever stand, as she did. She of all cities and places can best afford to view the transfer with equanimity, the protest we now make is one that affects her no more closely than it affects India as a whole. It is true, that, as we behold the stately and spacious edifices in this Calcutta of ours, designed and built and, as to many of them, but recently completed, for the express purpose of housing, for all time, the Executive and Administrative Heads of the Government of India and the vast concourse of their subordinates, we seem to hear "they very stones cry out" and adjure us not "to hold our peace." Thus inspired by the Dumb we invoke the co-operation of the Articular in this our protest, and, I may say, sinking our pride, we make our appeal, our entreaty to Government to desist from committing the country to an expenditure which finds favour with no one outside a very limited and gradually attenuating official circle, and to view, if with dismay by India's thinking millions clamouring in their sore need and distress for the money thus to be madly cast away.

COST OF NEW DELHI

MESSAGES FROM MADRAS AND OTHER CHAMBERS.

The Hon. Mr. J. C. Shorrock, before moving the resolution which stood in his name read a letter from the Vice-Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce to the following effect:—"The members of this Chamber unanimously approve generally of the terms of the resolution to be proposed for adoption at the annual meeting of your Chamber, on the 27th instant, regarding the limitation of the expenditure to be incurred in the building of the new capital at Delhi. The subject is to be considered at the general monthly meeting of our Chamber to be held on the same day and I will address you again, communicating the terms of any resolution that may be adopted and forwarding a copy of any letter that may be addressed to the Government of India." He also said that the Chambers of Commerce of Cocanada, South Coromandel, Chittagong and Narainganje had also written expressing their entire sympathy with the resolution.

MR. SHORROCK'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Mr. J. C. Shorrock moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved that the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce assembled in annual general meeting emphatically protest against the excessive outlay of public funds of a new capital city at Delhi, seeing that great expenditure must be incurred, during the next few years, in furtherance of the industrial, commercial, and railway development of India."

He said:—Gentlemen,—the resolution which I have the honour to move protests against a development of the Delhi Policy which held no place in the Royal Pronouncement and formed no part of the original scheme of the administrative changes. The idea of the rejuvenation of Delhi around the Durbar foundation stones was, as you all know, quickly abandoned in favour of a much more ambitious and costly project, namely, the creation of an entirely new capital city situated many miles away. The indicated cost thereof has risen by geometrical progression for

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IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

BILLS PASSED.

FINANCIAL DEBATES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Delhi, Feb. 27.

A meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council was held this morning. Sir Harcourt Butler presided. There was a fair attendance. The Council was asked to consider the Select Committee's report on the Motor Vehicles Bill. Rai Sita Nath Roy's amendments were withdrawn, and the Bill was then passed.

Sir William Meyer asked the Council to consider the Select Committee's report on the Local Authorities Loan Bill. The motion was agreed to and the Bill was subsequently passed.

LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENT.

Raja Kushalpal Singh, in moving the resolution for the extension of the period of settlement of land revenue from 20 or 30 to 50 years, said that quite a distinguished body of Anglo-Indian and British statesmen had expressed themselves in favour of permanent settlement. Three Governors-General under the East India Company, three Viceroys under the Crown had exerted all their influence towards imposing permanent limitation on land taxation in India, but were overruled by the authorities in England. If the duration of settlements was extended, the expense and harrassment incidental to the present mode of assessment operations recurring 20 or 30 years would be materially lightened and there would be accumulation and investment of capital. Directly encouraged, the people would lead a fuller and contented life, and the indirect benefit thus accruing in the future would more than compensate for any immediate loss of revenue. The speaker quoted at length from the Secretary of State's Despatch of 1862 and from writings of Mr. Seton-Karr in illustration of his argument about the disadvantages of the present settlement system, and mentioned that many high officials, including Viceroys, Secretaries of State, Lieutenant-Governors and Royal Commissions had acknowledged the harm which the periodical revisions of land revenue demand entailed and said that Sir Auckland Colvin and Mr. Carpenter had fully described the harrassing nature of the operations which led to corrupt and oppressive practices. The speaker himself gave a graphic account of what generally takes place at the time of settlements and their dire effect on the agricultural population. He said that the system of extending the period of settlement from time to time also caused loss to Government. On the approach of an impending revision of settlement, cultivation was neglected and lands were purposely thrown out of cultivation, and the very thought of a revision of assessment at short intervals was heavy on the landholders.

The speaker, continuing, said that it was no doubt true that settlement officers themselves did not make excessive demands. Yet the anxiety to show some increase in revenue animated all officers from the highest to the lowest, and every increase in the revenue meant a corresponding decrease in the resources of the people and in their ability to provide against years of bad harvest. It was now twenty years since the last examination of the general question of the term of settlement by the Government of India. A vast change had since then taken place in the country, and the time had now come when the question of the term of settlement should be re-examined in the light of altered economic conditions.

Sir G. M. Chitnavis supported Raja Kushal Pal Singh's resolution, and spoke in favour of a long-[illegible] progressive and graduated and there was greater elasticity in revenue collection, suspension and remissions of revenue being given on a scale hitherto unknown. Whatever the basis of settlement, whether net assets or rental, or general consideration, most careful attention should be given to the well-being of the revenue payer. In applying the local settlement rules, whatever they might be, the keynote of Government policy was moderation. Sir Robert Carlyle affirmed that they were not prepared to take any steps towards a change from temporary to permanent settlements of land revenue. The foundation of the present land revenue system was an immemorial custom of the country under which the ruling power was entitled to a certain share of the produce of the land. Continuing, he said:—Our system of land revenue settlements tends to disguise this fact. Except in the comparatively rare cases of fluctuating settlements, we no longer vary our demand from year to year with the outturn of the crops, and in making our assessments we look as a rule more to the gross produce than to the net produce or profits. The basis of the whole system, however, is the right to a share of the gross produce, and every departure from the strict application of this principle is based on the desire of Government to reduce as far as possible the burden on the people and to avoid any unnecessary expenditure on settlement. If he accepted the resolution, he would be consenting to two assumptions, first that there were parts of the country which had become ripe for a permanent settlement in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Secretary of State's despatch of 1862, and secondly that if there were such parts of the country a fifty years' settlement of land revenue would be more appropriate than one of 20 or 30 years. He was not prepared to agree with either of those assumptions. Sir Robert dwelt at length on the despatch of 1862, and gave details showing that the Resolution stood condemned so far as the Secretary of State's despatch was concerned. Referring to the question of a fifty years' settlement, Sir Robert Carlyle said that the Government were not prepared to make any move in that direction. Assuming that the mover was right in his demand, how could he ask Government to pledge itself for a very long period. Should Government be unwise enough to give such a pledge would it be possible to prevent some future Finance Member from seeking to take by some other tax the profits from land? Did the members of the Council believe it would have been possible to refrain from doing so had a permanent settlement been extended, as had at various times been proposed, to the whole of India? In conclusion he said that on every ground he would oppose the resolution. Government could not agree to forego its share in the profits from land, and very long terms of settlement would entail many disadvantages even to the landholders. Though the resolution was a very modest request, yet he could not accept it as he was not prepared to embark the Government on another discussion on revenue matters which was likely to be very protracted and almost certain to be entirely intructuous.

Raja Kushal Pal Singh having replied the resolution was negatived by 35 to 18.

UNITED PROVINCES FINANCE.

Rai Sri Ram Bahadur moved that the annual amount allowed at present by the Imperial Government to the Government of the United Provinces, out of shared heads of revenue raised by the said Provinces for provincial expenditure, be increased by a sum equivalent to one-eighth of their land revenue either by raising the provincial share of the land revenue from three-eighths to the full extent of one-half, or by increasing that share only partially and making up the rest by raising their shares in such other shared heads of revenue as the Government may consider proper.

Sir William Meyer, in replying, said the Government were always just in the treatment of various provinces. The Province was really liberally treated. It was now unfortunately experiencing a period of famine. Under the present system it lost in consequence five lakhs, the Imperial Government bearing the remainder of the loss. Had it half the land revenue and no guarantee, the loss would be not five lakhs but thirty-two lakhs. The mover had overlooked the fixed assignments of forty lakhs to the Province. Discussing the finances of the United Provinces, the Finance Member said the estimated balance next year would be 112 lakhs. The Imperial Government could not give the United Provinces 80 lakhs a year without bringing to a standstill those beneficent activities with which the Council had been so closely associated.

After further debate the motion was negatived.

The Council adjourned till March 2nd.

OUTWARD AND HOMEWARD PASSENGERS

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bombay, Feb. 27.

Among the passengers who arrived here to-day by the P. and O. English Mail steamer *Mongolia* was Mr. Justice Chamier.

The P. and O. Company's homeward bound passenger season has now commenced. The Company's steamer *Malaja* takes to England to-morrow a large number of passengers, among whom are: Sir Murray Hammick, Sir Alfred Hopkinson, Lady Butler, the Rt. Hon. Earl of Ronaldshay, M.P., the Countess of Ronaldshay, the Rt. Hon. Sir George Murray, P.C., Viscountess Trafalgar, Brigadier-General Cockburn, the Hon. Lady Murray, Sir Theodore Morison, Sir Arthur Priestly, M.P., Mr. W. C. Madge, Princess Sudhira Mander, Major J. H. Marjoribanks, I.M.S., and Mrs. Marjoribanks.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

INAUGURATION OF BENGAL BRANCH.

SPEECH BY LORD CARMICHAEL

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Legislative Council Chamber at Government House to inaugurate a Bengal Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association. His Excellency Lord Carmichael presided and amongst those present were:—Major General May, H. H. the Maharaja of Hill Tippera, the Maharaja of Burdwan, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Nawab Syed Shamsul Huda, Colonel Harris, Messrs. Stephenson, Sanman, Hughes-Buller, Colonel Grime, Dr. Allen, Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose, Mr. Ariff, the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, Raja Bahadur of Mymensingh, Rai Hari Mohan Chandra Bahadur, Mr. F. W. Finn Hon. Secy. Calcutta Ambulance Association, Rai P. N. Mookerjee Bahadur, Messrs. Apcar, Wilkinson, Nattall, Dr. W. Kennedy, Col. Kirkpatrick, Miss Kelsey, Miss Bethune, Capt. Burgess, Surgeon to H. E. the Governor, and Mr. W. R. Gourlay, Private Secretary.

Lord Carmichael's Speech.

In opening the meeting His Excellency said:—We are, as you are aware, here for the purpose of inaugurating a Provincial Centre of the St. John Ambulance Association for the Presidency of Bengal. This new centre is not designed to supplant the existing Calcutta Centre but to complete the organization of the Indian Branch in this part of India by providing machinery for organizing the work of the Society in the mofussil. The new body will be chiefly administrative in its functions and will leave executive work in local centres to the local bodies. I do not propose to occupy your time by discussing the merits or mission of the St. John Ambulance Association, as Major Blackham, the General Secretary in India, has come all the way from Simla to tell us about the Association and its work in India, but there is just one point which I would like to emphasize and that is one which the Viceroy made a point of in his speech at the annual meeting of the Association last October. I refer to the essentially Indian character of the Society in this country. Although described as an offshoot of the parent Association, the Indian Branch is to all intents and purposes an entirely Indian Society. It owes allegiance to the parent society and the ancient Order of St. John, of which it is a department, and it is proud of its association with those bodies, but it is at the same time organized entirely for the benefit of India and the Indian people. I think this point is worthy of special notice, as is also the fact that the Association work is taught to Indians in their own languages. In view of its essentially Indian character I can support Lord Hardinge's opinion that the Association deserves more support from philanthropic Indians than it has yet received. I have been asked to present a vote of thanks of the Order of St. John to Dr. Willoughby Kennedy and the vote of thanks of the Indian Council, signed by His Excellency the Viceroy, in Mr. Nattall's

BENGAL CHAMBE

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OUTSPOKEN CRI SHORROCK

THE PRESIDENT ON

The main feature of interest at yes terday's annual meeting of the Benga Chamber of Commerce was the resolu tion moved by the Hon. Mr. J. C. Shor rock and seconded by the Hon. Mr Norman McLeod condemning the ex penditure upon the new capital at Delhi. The Hon. Mr. A. M. Monteath (President), presided, and there was a crowded attendance of members a ful list of whom is given in another column.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Hon. Mr. A. M. Monteath, the President, said:—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in presenting to you the report of your Committee for the past year and I trust that on perusal, you may deem that we have acted rightly on your behalf. It is of course impossible for me on this occasion to refer to all the matters that have been dealt with by us, nor is it necessary that I should do so, for the report is a fairly full summary of the labours of your Committee for the past year, but there are nevertheless some matters which with your permission, I should like to allude to. The year that has passed has been one of Government Commissions. We have had the Public Services Commission, the Finance Commission, the Life Saving Appliances Commission, and last, but by no means least at any rate as far as Calcutta is concerned, the Calcutta Port Facilities Commission. All these Commissions are plodding their weary way through a mass of detail and all are nearing the report stage and the reports when issued will be interesting reading.

Port Facilities Commission.

The Calcutta Port Facilities Commission as you know is a Commission that affects most of us very closely and is one that is the result of representations from the Chamber, and I can only hope that the Commission may find some way of alleviating the present congestion of the Port and may be able to indicate how far the policy of the Port is sufficient for the needs of the years to come. The commercial community of Calcutta have much to thank the Government for not only in appointing this Commission but also for supplying such able officers to work it. Sir William Duke the President of the Commission was lent by the Government of Bengal and throughout the months the Commission has been sitting he has had to neglect the affairs of State for the affairs of the Port. Sir Henry Burt, the able Railway officer and Mr. Howard the eminent Engineer have been lent by the Government of India and, as I think most of you know, Mr. Foster, who in the past has been responsible for the up-to-date

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Zu A 6076 pr. 27. März 1914

Notiz

Bericht a. Calcutta v. 8/3. No 81 –
über Einführung jährlicher Besuchungen des Vizekönigs mit den eingeborenen Fürsten, über die Stellung des Maharadja v. Likaneer zum Vizekönig u. die zunehmende Selbstständigkeit der Fürsten

Ref. bis 1. a. Engl. Ref. Akten
2 No 2

Engl. Ref. Asien 2.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_030

A 6078 pr. 27. März 1914. pm.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 87.

Calcutta, den 10. Maerz 1914.

mfg. 30. Pera 236
3. Kairo 412.
London 572

U. H. St. 28. MRZ

Die kleine türkische Delegation, welche in Indien reist um den grossen Gemeinden den Dank der Türkei für die Hilfe während des jüngsten Krieges auszusprechen, hat vielfach begeisterten Empfang gefunden. So in Aligarh. Die Ansprache an das Mohamedanische College, dort, wurde von einem der Mitglieder in mustergültigem Persisch gehalten " welches ja auch die Sprache eines mohamedanischen Volkes sei ". Persisch wird von den indischen Mohamedanern meist verstanden. Ein Student brachte zum Schluss three cheers auf den Sultan aus.

Die englische Beamtenschaft sieht diese Vorgänge ungern, ist jedoch viel zu klug, um zu hindern oder zu verbieten. Ich höre, dass Sir James Meston, der sympatische Lieut.-Governor der United Provinces, der Entwickelung

der

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Abschr. Asien 2 Türkei 203

PAAA_RZ201_019352_031

der Anstalt mit Sorge entgegensieht.

In Delhi soll der Empfang der Delegierten sowie des türkischen Generalkonsuls, der im Auftrag des Sultans einen Teppich überbrachte, höchst eindrucksvoll gewesen sein. Die Jama-Maejiid war bis auf die Stufen ihres Aufbaus von vielen Tausenden besetzt. Dem Generalkonsul wurden besondere Ehren erwiesen. Mohamed Ali, der Herausgeber des " Comrade " und populäre Führer in Delhi musste ihm mit Bitten einen Weg durch die andrängenden Gläubigen bahnen.

K Kinkurz

für

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A 6079 pr. 27. März 1914. pen 1 Anl.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Calcutta, den 12. Maerz 1914.

Ber. Nr. 89.

1 Anlage.

A 9010

v. U. St. 28. MRZ

Die hiesige Kriminalpolizei und der politische Geheimdienst haben sich in dem gestern beendeten Strafverfahren gegen den angeblichen Mörder des Polizeiinspektors N. Ghose eklatant blamiert. Der Angeklagte, ein junger bengalischer Student, Nirmal Kanto Ray, ist von der Anklage des doppelten Mords bezw. Totschlags (ein vorübergehender Knabe war auch erschossen worden) von der Jury einstimmig freigesprochen worden. Die ursprünglichen Vernehmungen der Zeugen waren so unvollständig, wichtige Tatumstände, wie die Herkunft des angeblich bei dem Angeklagten gefundenen Revolvers, mit dem die Schüsse auf den Polizeiinspektor nachweislich nicht abgefeuert sein konnten, so unaufgeklärt, dass die vom Verteidiger

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dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Kriegl. Abt. Afrika 2

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Verteidiger, den glänzenden barrister Eardley Norton angedeutete Interpretation an Nachdruck gewinnt, nämlich, dass die hiesige schlechtreputierte Polizei vielleicht absichtlich einen falschen Körper festnahm und gegen ihn künstliche Beweise vorbrachte. Besonders lächerlich hat sich die Polizei dadurch gemacht, dass alsbald nach Festnahme des "Mörders", gegen den jetzt nur die Anklage der Beihülfe aufrechterhalten wird, eine feierliche Versammlung des Polizeidienstes bei der Statue der Königin Victoria stattfand, wobei zahlreichen Polizisten, Zeugen usw. mit feierlichen Reden Dankesworte und Belohnungen von meist 750/- Rupies pro Kopf gewidmet wurden. Auch der gutmütige Gouverneur war dabei anwesend. Die Verteidigung hat nachdrücklich gerügt, dass es unstatthaft sei, durch derartige Veranstaltungen dem Urteil vorzugreifen. Ein Presskommentar aus heutigen "Statesman" ist beigeschlossen.

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K Lindau

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PAAA_RZ201_019352_034

Kaiserlich Deutsches Generalkonsulat.

Anlage zu Bericht Nr. 89.

The Statesman, 12th March 1914.

The acquittal of NIRMAL KANTO RAY on the charges of murdering Inspector NRIPENDRANATH GHOSE and ANANTA TELI convicts the police of one of the most remarkable blunders to be found even in their record of failures. The unfortunate Inspector was shot dead in Chitpore Road. A constable and others also were standing near and gave chase to the assassin. During the flight a man tried to stop him, and the fugitive fired his revolver with fatal effect upon one ANANTA TELI. The pursuit was continued, and the murderer was seized. A revolver and cartridges were found on his person. Such was the story given to the public, and this was the version of the tragic affair told in the statement of the Standing Counsel. So little room for doubt did there seem to be that it was generally believed that the murderer had been caught red-handed. Most favourable comment was made upon the courage and energy shown by the police in pursuing an armed desperado who had proved by his crimes that he wielded his revolver with skill and who was clearly prepared to shoot down anyone attempting to apprehend him. The Bengal Government were naturally pleased with the valour displayed by the police, and, since so many assassins have made good their escape, they very properly came to the conclusion that the spirited conduct of the constables and by-standers ought to receive a signal mark of appreciation. To increase the impression which so notable a change from the ordinary apathy of the witnesses of a crime must produce upon the community it was thought wise to distribute substantial rewards while the case was still fresh in the public mind. If the right man had been caught, the proceeding would have been accepted as unusual but justifiable in the circumstances. It has now been shown, however, that the person seized was not the murderer of Inspector NRIPENDRANATH GHOSE or of ANANTA TELI. The real assassin escaped under the eyes of the police who were rewarded for having caught him. It is deplorable that such an exhibition of police incompetence should have been rewarded as a display of valour. It is much more deplorable that two abominable crimes remain undetected and unpunished and that Anarchism should still be able to rejoice in the impenetrable secrecy of its operations.

A 6079.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_035

A. 6144, pr. 28. März 1914 p.m.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 82.

Calcutta, den 7. Maerz 1914.

mitg. 30/3. London 510 Dr. Wien.

U. H. St. 28. MRZ

In der Presse sind verschiedene Projekte aufgetaucht, teilweise auf grosse Konstruktionsfirmen zurückgehend, welche Eisenbahnverbindung nach Kashmir vorsehen. Dieser grosse Staat des Nord-Westen ist bekanntlich an das indische Eisenbahnnetz nicht bezw. nur in Jammu angeschlossen, der Winterresidenz des Maharajah sowie der englischen Residentur. Der Maharajah wohnt am liebsten in Lahore während des kalten Wetters. Jammu ist mit der eigentlichen Hochebene Kashmir durch eine für Verkehr weder geschaffene noch geeignete Strasse des Maharajah verbunden.

Ich glaube vertraulich zu wissen, dass die anglo-indische Regierung mindestens eines dieser Projekte bei der Kashmir Regierung befürwortet hat, jedoch ohne Erfolg. Der Maharajah und seine Berater ziehen es aus Gründen, die ich nicht kenne, die aber jedenfalls hauptsächlich politisch

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Abschl. Abschr. Afinn 2/

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sind und die Unabhängigkeit des Landes im Auge haben, vor-
ohne Eisenbahnverbindung zu bleiben, obschon sie den Nut-
zen einer solchen für das Land nicht verkennen.

[Abschrift geht nach Bombay.]

K. Seeburg

I.

Sicher erhalten.

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PAAA_RZ201_019352_037

U.

zu A 6144

I.) Mit folgender Inhaltsangabe:

Eisenbahnbauten in Indien

mitzuteilen ohne [...] zur - Information.

an die Missionen in:

London . . Nr. 510 v 31/3 Depeche

. . . . . Nr.

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Sicher o. Abschrift.

II.) Dem Herrn Reichskanzler

Abschr. d. Vorl. ohne [...]

zur gefl. Kenntnisnahme erg. übersandt.

Berlin, den 30ten März 1914

/ Stpl. /

J. Nr. 4027 v. 30. 3. 14

G. II. Ob 31/3. 8° p. m. E. V. gegl. Anf. Schm 2 10 Uhr Met.

Gri 30/15

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A 6607 pr. 4. April 1914. ausz.
1 Anl.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 100.

Calcutta, den 19. Maerz 1914.

U.K. – Pl.
R. Kol.-Amt.
pr. 20/4. mit A 7717.

1 Anlage.

D. U. St. 4 APR.

Ew. Exzellenz beehre ich mich in Anlage Auszug aus dem gestrigen "Statesman" zu überreichen, betr. statement Lord Hardinge's in der Sitzung des Legislative Council zu Delhi. Der Vizekönig gibt darin seiner Befriedigung über die voraussichtlich in Südafrika erreichte Einigung Ausdruck.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Kgl. Preuß. Gesandter

K.A.II 1618/14 A 7717.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_039

Anlage zu Bericht № .. Calcutta.

The Statesman, March 18, 1914.

On the Council reassembling after lunch His Excellency the Viceroy spoke on the South African question, and said the report of the Solomon Commission had been placed on the table of the Union Parliament at 2 o'clock to-day.

His Excellency said :—

Before resuming the business of the Council I am anxious to avail myself of this opportunity to give to Hon. members all the information in my possession on a subject which has recently occupied the very serious attention of the Government of India, that is to say the troubles that have arisen in South Africa in connection with the treatment of Indians in that country. This Council will recollect that in consequence of the outbreak of passive resistance, and of the strikes in Natal in the month of November last, the South African Government appointed a Commission to investigate the cases of disturbances in the Natal, and to formulate proposals for dealing with the alleged grievances of the Indian population. That Commission was presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court, assisted by two members, and a forecast of their conclusions was made public yesterday in the daily press. The report of the Commission has been laid on the table of the Union Parliament at 2 o'clock to-day, and I should now like to explain in fuller detail to my Council the significance of the Commission's report. In the first place the Commission recommend the repeal of Section 6 of an Act passed by the Natal Government, No. 17 of 1895, which imposed on indentured Indians who have completed their service of indenture and failed either to re-indenture or to return to India an annual license tax of £3. I do not desire to weary the Council with a complete history of the negotiation between the Natal Government and the Government of India in 1894, and subsequent years which preceded the imposition and subsequent modification of this tax. Its imposition arose from the fear entertained by the Natal Government that indentured Indians, on completion of their indentures, would settle in that colony in such numbers as to form an embarrassing problem of those interested in the future of the country. The Government of India at that time desired to secure the continuance of emigration to Natal as forming a valuable outlet for the surplus agricultural population, while maintaining that failure to return to India or to re-indenture at the end of the original indenture period should not entail criminal prosecution, and the penalties that are ordinarily attached to breaches of the criminal law. From this point of view the action subsequently taken by the Natal Government, that is to say the imposition of a £3-tax on those who failed to re-indenture or to return to India after the expiry of the period of the original contract, was considered to be the most reasonable solution of a very difficult question. Modifications in the £3-tax have been made from time to time by legislation with the object, amongst others, of exempting such women as were not in a position to pay.

A Constant Source of Irritation.

But it has been felt for some time that the tax was undesirable and burdensome, and since the complete cessation by order of the Government of India in 1911 of all indentured emigration to Natal, the retention of this tax and its capricious enforcement, even though it is not levied on more than a small number of those liable, has been a constant source of irritation among the Indians in Natal. When the Immigration Act of 1913 was passed, it was hoped in many quarters that the occasion might be utilised to repeal this objectionable import, but this unfortunately, was not done. The Government of India welcomed the recommendation of the Commission for the repeal of the tax, and although they fully realise that the Government of South Africa are not definitely committed to the findings of the Commission, they earnestly hope that the Government of the Union may accept this proposal, and give effect to it at the earliest possible date by means of the necessary legislation.

Next in importance to this question of the repeal of the £3-tax there is the necessity of providing by some form of legislation for the position of women either in South Africa, or desiring to enter South Africa, who are allied to Indians by a form of union which is not at present recognised by the laws of that country. The South African Legislature has hitherto shown a disinclination to give any form of legal recognition to marriages performed according to the rites of any religion which permits the practice of polygamy. This attitude has been necessarily extremely embarrasing to Indians in South Africa, whether married to one or more wives, who desired to obtain recognition for at least one wife. The report of the Commission contains numerous recommendations intended to meet the reasonable requirements of Mahomedans and Hindus in respect of this difficulty. The substance of their recommendations is that a law should be passed providing for the appointment of marriage officers from amongst the Indian priests of different denominations, whose duty it would be to solemnise future marriages in accordance with the religion of the parties to the transaction, and duly to register the same. Only one marriage in each case can be so solemnised and registered, and it will then have the great advantage of ranking entirely with any other marriage contracted under the laws of the Union. Actual monogamous marriages are to be similarly recognised by this law, and further provision is to be made for the admission into the Union, along with her minor children, of one wife in the case of any Indian who is married according to the tenets of his religion, whether it recognised polygamy or not outside the Union of South Africa, provided that she is the only wife in the country. Further, and this I venture to think is a very noteworthy and important proposal, it is recommended that Indians, after re-

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gistering one wife in the manner to which I have already referred, should not be debarred in any way from contracting other marriages according to their own religious rites, though it will, of course, be impossible to accord to such marriages any form of legal recognition whatsoever.

MINOR GRIEVANCES.

Next, the commission have dealt with some minor grievances which formed the subject of protest on the part of the Indian population in South Africa against the recently enacted Immigration Act. They have recommended that a clause in the Act which repeals the provisions of a law of the Orange Free State directed against the immigration of Asiatics should, I understand, be made unobjectionable by the issue of executive orders of a nature calculated to remove all cause for dissatisfaction. Also, that certain existing restrictions with regard to the issue of certificates enabling Indian residents in South Africa to leave the country and to return within stated period should be modified in a very favourable manner. Measures are also recommended for increasing the facilities for the issue of permits to those Indians who desire to visit the Union for temporary purposes. In these recommendations I find a very complete and satisfactory attempt to arrive at a final solution of the difficulties that have arisen in South Africa, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the warm appreciation of the Government of India of the broad and statesmanlike manner in which these difficult questions have been approached and dealt with by the presence and active co-operation of Sir Benjamin Robertson, to whom we are indebted, for his firm and conciliatory attitude has very materially contributed to the formulation of these proposals, and I feel confident that if, as I sincerely hope will be the case, they are adopted by the Union Government, and combined with sympathetic admiration of the existing laws, they should undoubtedly lead to a lasting settlement. The commission of enquiry regretted very greatly that the Indians, for reasons to which I need not refer, failed to appear before them, and to give evidence not only on the questions with which I have dealt, but in connection with the various cases of ill-treatment which were alleged to have occurred at the time the Commission was appointed. I share that regret, and I cannot help thinking that the Indians would have been better advised had they accepted the counsel I tendered to them in my speech in Calcutta in December last, when I strongly urged that they should appear before the Commission and give their evidence on all matters that were referred to that tribunal for enquiry. The Commission, though labouring under some disadvantage as a result of this abstinence, have framed their recommendations on broad and liberal lines, and should the South African Government give effect to these recommendations by legislation, I sincerely trust that the settlement thus embodied in the law will be accepted in this country by all loyal subjects of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

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Telegramm 100 Nr. Hahnemann Lord Harlinger
über Einigung betr. Südafrika

zu A 6607

U. R.

dem Herrn St. S. d. Reichskolonialamts

Mitteilung
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A 6607
nicht Beilage
Jetzt. 24/4. mit A 7717.

zur gefl. Kenntnisnahme ergebenst übersandt.

Berlin, den 7ten April 1914.

(Stpl.)

Vor Abg.
Bei
Z. No. 4412

ab 7/4. 8a Pers. i. d. K.
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Abgel. durch Afrikanische Seite 6/IV

A. d. Ch. H. Formular 28 1000. 1. 13

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A 7128 pr. 11. April 1914. an. Z Abt.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 107.

CALCUTTA, den 26. Maerz 1914.

Anlagen

U. U. St. 11. APR.

In dem gehorsamst angeschlossenen Statement, welches der Vizekönig in der Schlusssitzung der Wintersession des Legislative Council machte, korrigierte derselbe seine früheren Schätzungen betr. der Expedition nach Neu Delhi. Der schwedischen Gendarmerie in Persien wird Lob gezollt, das neue Abkommen mit Frankreich betr. Waffenhandel in Mascat befriedigend konstatiert. Die Ausführungen sind etwas weitschweifig und pompös.

Die heutigen Leitartikel des "Stateman" und "Englishman" mit scharfen, teilweise persönlichen Angriffen gegen Lord Hardinge sind beigefügt.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_043

The Pioneer, March 26, 1914.

CLOSING SPEECH BY THE VICEROY.

His Excellency the Viceroy, at the closing of the Legislative Council sessions at Delhi, said: "My first and a very pleasant duty in addressing you to-day at the close of a session during the course of which questions of finance have been much under discussion, is to re-echo the views of my Council and to congratulate Sir William Meyer on the presentation of his first budget to the Imperial Legislative Council. It was a great satisfaction to me last year, as head of the Government, to welcome a colleague of Sir William Meyer's known ability and wide experience, both in the special field of finance and in Indian administration generally.

THE BUDGET.

We are indebted to him for an unusually informing account of the present financial policy. The line he has adopted in thus taking both yourselves and the public generally into his confidence is one which no doubt invites criticism, because it makes criticism easy, but that is a result which neither he nor my Government can deprecate. The more intelligently our policy is scrutinised the more confident we are of general support.

It is true that he has had to budget under conditions which are not entirely favourable. Unlike his predecessor he has had but a small surplus to dispose of and practically no doles to distribute. It is always pleasant to give doles to needy claimants and perhaps it is even more pleasant to receive them, but large unanticipated surpluses are not an entirely healthy element in our finance, while the distribution of doles is apt to be demoralising and to provoke disappointment when in lean years further doles are not forthcoming. On the other hand the sums available due to the natural growth of the Imperial share of the revenues are an entirely healthy development in our financial system and I regard the needs of education and sanitation as amongst the first claims upon them. That is all that I intend to say on the subject of the budget, but I am also glad to be able to announce that we have just secured a reduction in the telegraph rates between India and Europe of 4 annas a word on the ordinary rates and 2 annas a word on the deferred rates. I may say that it was not an altogether easy matter to obtain this concession, which has been the subject of negotiation for some time past. Its importance, I am sure, will be greatly appreciated by the commercial community, to whom the cheapening of telegraphic communication with Europe is a matter of ever increasing moment. Those reductions will probably take effect from the 1st May.

THE FAMINE.

It is a matter of deep concern to me that India should again be visited by famine. The scarcity which now prevails in parts of the United Provinces, Rajputana and Central India is, I am sorry to say, fairly widespread and in places it is of the severe type. We had hoped, and long continued to hope, that the winter rains might come in time to ensure a fair spring crop in the affected areas; but we have been disappointed and the scarcity has only been slightly mitigated by the little rain which has fallen. At the same time, it is not on a scale commensurate with that of the serious visitation which affected the United Provinces in 1907-08, and there are certain features of the present distress which are significantly hopeful, both as regards our immediate troubles and in their bearing on the tendencies of future famines in India. The people started with a series of good seasons behind them and not inconsiderable stocks. There is fortunately a promise of an excellent harvest in a great part of the Punjab. Prices in the United Provinces have not risen so rapidly as might otherwise have been the case and the whole situation has developed somewhat more slowly than was originally expected. Those who have followed the course of the recent scarcities in the Bombay Presidency will have been struck with the change which appears to be gradually coming over the character of our Indian famines, and which is reflected in the administrative measures now taken to meet them. A pre science born of previous experience works almost as a matter of routine to meet the gradual approach of scarcity. Revenue is suspended with a liberality unknown ten years ago; agricultural advances are distributed on an enormous scale, the ordinary public works, instead of being closed for want of funds, are extended as far as possible; for the maintenance of workers' cattle, whose services are of such economic importance, every effort is made to provide fodder at cheap rates, the cost of transit being reduced at great expense to the State; everything, in short, is done to stave off, as far as this can be safely done, the day on which relief works must be opened. Nothing is perhaps more striking than the almost secondary place into which the system of relief works—formerly a cardinal feature of our relief programme—has tended to fall in our recent famines. Whether this will be characteristic of future famines it is yet impossible to say, but our recent experience has certainly emphasised this tendency.

The progressive improvement in recent years in the means of communication in India and a marked increase in the alertness and confidence of the labouring classes have enabled a large proportion of the able bodied poor to go further afield in search of work. The large works and the big industrial enterprises of modern days have provided a considerable degree of automatic relief, and while we have as before to provide gratuitous relief for a large number of persons who are precluded from the possibility of obtaining work, we are finding it less and less necessary to centre all our energies on the artificial provision of labour for the able-bodied. Indeed, at the present moment, we are assisting a larger number of persons in the famine areas in the United Provinces by gratuitous relief than by the system of relief works.

It is impossible to foresee what the future may have in store for us, especially if we were to be unfortunately visited by

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a severe and extensive failure of the rains; but in the tendencies which I have described there are some who are able to see, and I think not without justification, the beginning of an economic movement which, if unimpeded by other influences, will bring about a momentous change in the scope and effects of monsoon failures in this country. It is my earnest hope that present expectations as to the limited scope and duration of the scarcity will be confirmed by a good autumn monsoon and that the distressed areas will enjoy a speedy return to agricultural prosperity.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Since I last addressed you on the subject of foreign affairs in Simla on the 17th September last it has been pleasant to know that affairs in Eastern Europe are gradually settling down and that the shadow of war, which has lately for so long enveloped the Balkan Peninsula, is now gradually being dispelled by the sunlight of peace. We can only hope that time will heal the wounds that have been inflicted and soften the animosities that have been created and that the Empire of Turkey, our neighbour in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, will emerge from her recent trials with renewed vitality and determination to consolidate her position by an enlightened policy of peaceful progress and material development. In the pursuit of such a policy we, in India, have everything to gain and we can warmly wish her Godspeed.

PERSIA.

I told you in September last of the disinterested attitude of His Majesty's Government towards Persia and that we had recently lent the Persian Government a considerable sum of money for the creation of a force of gendarmerie under Swedish officers, with a view to the suppression of anarchy in Southern Persia and the restoration of order and security on the trade routes, where British and Indian trade had suffered serious loss during the past few years. I am glad to say that our hopes have so far not been disappointed. The regiment of gendarmerie which was raised at Shiraz has been employed during the winter in patrolling the roads and has dealt successfully with the robber bands who infested it. It is true that quite recently these gendarmerie have been confronted once more with a troublesome situation at Kazerun, but I am glad to learn that on the arrival of re-inforcements the tribal rising dispersed and that order has once more been restored.

Evidence of the successful activity of the gendarmerie is shown in the improved returns of British and Indian trade in Southern Persia. Another force of gendarmerie has been dealing with the situation on the trade route between Bunder Abbas and Kerman and, although they have had some serious engagements with the Perso-Baluchi tribes in that neighbourhood there is every reason for confidence in their ability to restore order in the immediate future. The action in South Persia of the Swedish officers and the Persian gendarmerie appears to have been eminently successful and to be worthy of unstinted praise. I may point out that the only alternative would have been the despatch of a British expedition to Southern Persia for the restoration of order in those provinces—a policy to which, with the entanglements and expenditure it would entail, the Government of India have always been firmly opposed, and I would only ask those who have been somewhat lavish in their criticisms of the attitude of the British Government in Persia now to recognise what we in India owe to Sir Edward Grey for his policy of disinterested support and abstention from interference in the internal affairs of Persia.

THE ARMS TRAFFIC IN THE GULF.

A further development that has taken place in connection with the affairs of the Persian Gulf is the conclusion of an agreement with the French Government by which they now recognise the new arms traffic regulations drawn up by the late Sultan of Muscat at our instance and by which they abandon the privileges and immunities secured to them by ancient treaties. We believe that gun-running from Muscat has now been stopped and that our agreement with France will effectually prevent its revival. Should this prove to be the case we may hope not only to avoid in future the necessity for those occasional small military expeditions which, for many years, have been a drain on Indian revenues, but also in the very near future to be able to discontinue the expensive naval blockade operations on the Mekran coast.

RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN.

Turning to Afghanistan, the relations of the Government of India with His Majesty the Amir have continued to be most friendly and cordial. Indeed, we have had only one complaint to present to the Afghan Government and that of a serious order, viz. in regard to the depredations on British territory by gangs resident in Afghan limits.

THE FRONTIER OUTRAGES.

The recent outrages on the Jehangira and Khairabad Railway Stations in the Peshawar District were, we have reason to believe, the work of a gang whose base is in the Afghan Shinwari country. I have addressed His Majesty the Amir on the subject demanding the punishment of the offenders and I have every reason to hope that the Afghan Government can and will co-operate in this matter. An even more flagrant instance of the evil in question is to be found on the Kohat-Bannu border, which for some years past has been constantly harried by gangs from the neighbouring Afghan district of Khost. These gangs, consisting of outlaws from British territory, assisted by bad characters from Khost, have with impunity murdered and robbed in British territory and carried off British subjects to their asylum in Afghanistan and there held them to ransom. The strongest representations have from time to time been made to the Amir on the subject and he assured me last December that he had issued orders to his local officers to deal vigorously with the matter. In spite of this, however, two serious outrages have since been committed by Khost gangs. In one of them a Hindu and his wife were carried off from the Tochi, and though the Afghan local officials could, so it is reported, have saved them—indeed had pledged themselves to do so—the unfortunate Hindu was brutally murdered and decapitated by the outlaws and his head sent to our post at Miranshah with a demand for an enormous ransom for the woman. To deal with this intolerable situation we decided that mere representations unbacked by action were valueless. I, therefore, authorised as a reprisal the arrest and detention of all Khostwals found

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in British territory, pending the settlement of this matter, and I sent a letter to the Amir informing him of our action and calling upon him to depute an officer, with the necessary force, to deal promptly and effectively with the situation, in co-operation if need be, with a British officer and the necessary force.

I am happy to be able to announce that I received news yesterday that this action has already borne fruit and that His Majesty the Amir, immediately on the receipt of my letter, issued stringent orders for the surrender of the captive Hindus in Khost and the arrest of the perpetrators of the outrages in question. Already three captive Hindus have been brought in to the Political Agent in the Tochi under escort and it is reported that the greater number of the outlaws have been arrested and despatched to Kabul for trial.

The North-West Frontier has otherwise been quiet, with the exception of an outrage by the Utman Khel in the north of Peshawar District, and two serious raids by the Bunerwals into British territory, in which eight British subjects were killed and considerable property taken. As regards the Utman Khel a blockade against them has been established which it is hoped will lead to a speedy settlement of this case. As regards the Bunerwals, I ordered the movement of a column into their country on the 23rd February last, to punish some of the villages mainly at fault. This operation, in spite of the most trying conditions of weather and roads, was carried out most successfully. The troops met with half-hearted opposition and returned without loss, after inflicting exemplary punishment on the offending villages. There are reasons to believe that the effect of this action has been most salutary on the Frontier, and I trust it will be clear rom what I have said that the Government of India are dealing vigorously with the question of insecurity on the North-West Frontier and intend, whatever it may cost, to restore reasonable peace and order on that border.

The Status of Tibet.

The future status of Tibet is still the subject of negotiations between accredited representatives of Great Britain and accredited representatives of China and Tibet. During the past year we have added greatly to our knowledge of the little known countries lying on the North-East Frontier. Along the Assam border surveys have been carried out, some roads have been made and a large portion of the unexplored highlands in that direction have been visited, so that we are now in a position to determine our natural boundaries on this side. On the north-east border of Burma it has been decided to extend our administrative control over a part of our tribal area and the new district of Putao has been peacefully established. On this side, too, the outlying portions of the Indian Empire have been explored and the knowledge so gained will enable us, when the time comes, to settle a satisfactory international frontier.

The South African Question.

I am grateful for the flattering words that have been used by a great many members to-day relating to the action of myself and my Government in connection with the position of Indians in South Africa and I think it will be a source of satisfaction to us all if I mention the fact that a Reuter's telegram from Capetown has come in to-day stating that General Smuts has announced in the Union House of Assembly that Government would introduce legislation next session based on the report of the recent Commission.

THE NEW CAPITAL.

I would now like to turn to a subject nearer home and to give you all the information in my power respecting the project estimate for the construction of the Imperial City of Delhi. This project estimate—which is really a monumental work reflecting the greatest credit upon the Delhi Committee, of which Mr. Hailey is the Chairman and upon the Chief Engineer, Mr. Keeling, and the staff of engineers and others working under him—was received by the Government of India about the New Year. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my warm appreciation of the untiring industry and devotion to duty of the officers on the staff of the committee who for weeks together during last hot weather worked, as I know, every day till 11 o'clock at night in order to press forward the completion of this heavy task. This estimate has been most carefully and thoroughly scrutinised by Mr. Russell and the staff of the Public Works Department, and they have brought to bear on it their vast and expert knowledge and have made some very useful and practical modifications. Their report reached me on the 4th March and has now undergone a close examination before acceptance by the Government of India and transmission to the Secretary of State. The above facts will explain to you why Sir Robert Carlyle, in reply to a question put to him in February, was unable to give any figures of the estimate. It is even irregular that I should do so now before the estimate reaches the Secretary of State, but as I am anxious to take the members of my Council as much as possible into my confidence I have obtained special permission from Lord Crewe to do so on this occasion. I wish, however, to make quite clear that the publication of the figures of the estimate does not in any way commit the Secretary of State to their acceptance.

Hon. members may possibly remember the tenour of the despatch addressed by the Government of India to the Secretary of State on the 25th August, 1911, in which the administrative changes announced by the King Emperor at the Durbar were proposed. This despatch may truly be said to have achieved a certain measure of notoriety, if that can be gauged by the lively discussions that have taken place over its contents. In the 22nd paragraph in which the cost of the proposed new Capital is discussed, the following words are used: "We will now give a rough indication of the cost of the scheme. No attempt at accuracy is possible, because we have purposely avoided making enquiries, as they would be likely to result in the premature disclosure of our proposals. The cost of the transfer to Delhi would be considerable. We cannot conceive, however, that a larger sum than four millions sterling would be necessary, and within that figure probably could be found the three years' interest on capital which would have to be paid till the necessary works and buildings were completed."

The rest of the paragraph deals with various assets which could be utilised to counterbalance this expenditure. Whether the Government of India were wise in mentioning a figure, in however guarded a manner, is, I frankly admit, open to serious doubt and it was only after consultation amongst our-

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selves and with the concurrence of our former colleague of the Finance Department, whose caution is well known to you all, that the figure of four millions sterling was inserted in the despatch. In any case the figure has since been the subject of much controversy in the Press and elsewhere and various predictions of the cost of the new city have been made.

Now that the Government of India have been in a position to obtain expert information and to prepare thorough and comprehensive estimates for the creation of a Capital which shall be built without extravagance and which shall yet be worthy of this great Empire, it is clear to us that the original estimate of four millions sterling must be exceeded, but not to the extent of those forecasts which have been made by our critics, as hon. members will see when I give them presently the figures of the project estimate in its latest form.

I might argue that this excess is due to the abandonment, owing to sanitary reasons, of the durbar site, and the cost of the consequent preparation of the new site, and I might put forward other reasons; but I have no desire to do anything of the kind, but simply to say frankly, on behalf of myself and those who are still members of my Council, that owing to the special circumstances in which we were placed we made an under-estimate in mentioning the figure of four millions sterling, and how great or small a mistake we made you hon. members of Council will shortly be able to judge.

THE AMENDED ESTIMATE.

I will now endeavour to give as succinctly as possible the figures of the estimate as amended by the Public Works Department. I may mention that as a result of their careful scrutiny the charges under certain headings have been reduced, while others have been increased, but the net result has been a material reduction of the total estimate as sent up by the Delhi Committee. The figures are as follows under their various headings :—

(*a*) Salaries and Allowances, Rs. 70,18,700.

(*b*) Travelling Allowances of Officers and Establishment, Rs. 6,30,000.

(*c*) Supplies, Services and Contingencies, Rs. 3,78,600.

(*d*) Works Expenditure, (1) Buildings, Rs. 3,59,87,200. (2) Communications Rs. 29,91,800 (3) Parks and Public Improvements, Rs. 27,34,500. (4) Electric Light and Power, Rs. 13,40,700. (5) Irrigation, Rs. 27,19,000. (6) Water Supply, Sewerage, Drainage, etc., Rs. 73,77,900. (7) Purchase of Tools and Plant, Rs. 35,50,600. (8) Survey Camps and General Preliminary Expenditure, Rs. 42,82,100. (9) Maintenance During Construction, Rs. 20,09,000. (*e*) Acquisition of Land taken up, Rs. 36,48,200. (*f*) Other Miscellaneous Expenditure, Rs. 6,000.

Deduct anticipated recovery from tools and plant, Rs. 10,00,000.

These figures when added up make an aggregate total of Rs. 7,67,01,300, or £5,113,620, but as we are anxious to face our liabilities for starting the new City to the fullest extent possible we consider it necessary to make a special provision for contingencies and unforeseen expenditure in excess of the usual provision that has been made of 5 per cent on the works outlay, by adding a sum of one and a half crores or £1,000,000. We have accordingly a very large reserve to meet future possibilities, which we are not able to foresee at present. I should add that the expenditure of this additional crore and a half on unforeseen contingencies will be strictly controlled by the Government of India and no part of it spent unless absolutely necessary. Hon. members may remember that recently a statement was made in Parliament by the Under-Secretary of State for India that the estimated cost of new buildings in Delhi—then under the consideration of the Government of India—amounted to £2,800,000 or 420 lakhs, while the figure for buildings that I have just given you is 260 lakhs. The discrepancy that arise between these two figures is due chiefly to the excision of the cost of the Survey of India Office and the residential accommodation for the staff, reduction in the provision for offices for the local administration, etc.

It has been decided by the Government of India that the presence in the capital of the Surveyor-General's Office is not administratively expedient.

It may be of interest to hon. members to know that under the heading of buildings, of which the total is Rs. 3,59,87,200, a sum of half a million sterling or 75 lakhs has been allotted for the construction of Government House and the Council Chamber and necessary appurtenances, with gardens, stables, offices of the private and military secretaries to the Viceroy, bungalows for the staff and accommodation for military guards, while a further sum of three quarters of a million sterling (or Rs. 1,12,50,000) has been set aside for the secretariat buildings of the Government of India. The remaining Rs. 1,72,37,200 is the estimated cost of local administration offices, Chief Commissioner's Office, Imperial Record Office, residences for officers of Government and for clerks, menials' quarters, electric installation in officers' and clerks' quarters, medical buildings, police accommodation, fire brigade station, markets and slaughter house, and accommodation for the Viceroy's Body-guard and for troops in the capital. There are other headings of expenditure, such as irrigation, which require more detailed elaboration, and in which it is possible that certain savings may be effected, but in all such cases an outside figure has been taken which we may reasonably hope will not be exceeded.

On the other hand the project estimate contains certain items, such as land, Residences, water supply, electric power, irrigation, on which recoveries in the form of rent or taxes will in addition to meeting current expenditure partially at any rate cover the interest on capital obtlay, while there are other items on which some return account of the sale of leases general taxes, and indirect receipts may be expected, for I need not explain that Government Officials for whom accommodation is provided will pay rent and that all residents in the new city will have to pay charges for water supply and other amenities. The project estimate of the Delhi Committee reckoned expenditure of this character at two crores or one-and-a-third millions of pounds, but we are of opinion that a forecast put forward at this stage might merely prove misleading and furnish materials for criticisms. Therefore, although a certain portion of the expenditure will undoubtedly be recouped, we prefer not to specify the items at this stage.

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I have now put before you, as briefly as it has been possible on an occasion like this present, the principal details of the project estimate for the construction of the capital city of Delhi and I think you may safely rely on my vigilance and on that of the Hon. Finance Member and of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, whose experience in the Finance Department stands him in such good stead, to see that no extravagance or waste of public funds is permitted. I may add that for a long time past I have received a monthly account of expenditure upon the works now in progress in order to secure the fullest financial supervision and control.

CANTONMENT AND RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

There is just one other point that I would wish to explain so as to avoid all misunderstanding, viz, the absence of any estimate for cantonment or railway expenditure in the project estimate. Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson in his financial statement last year stated that the cost of cantonments could only be shown in the military estimates. Any diversion of a railway line that might be found necessary must be charged to railways. As a matter of fact it had been already decided by the Government, before the question of making Delhi the Capital had arisen, to materially increase the garrison of Delhi owing to its strategical importance as the greatest railway centre of India, and to move the Indian infantry regiment from its insanitary lines to Daryaganj, while the long condemned lines of the Indian cavalry regiment should have been rebuilt at least three years ago. Very considerable expenditure would therefore in any case have been incurred on increasing and bringing up to date the military accommodation at Delhi. Consequently a new cantonment would have had to be built in any case.

As regards railway expenditure there is little doubt that if the city of Delhi expands in a southerly direction, as seems probably from the demands made for land in that direction, a diversion of the Agra chord may become inevitable and improved railway facilities for the inhabitants of the new city will become increasingly necessary. All that is being done at present is to acquire necessary land so as to meet the requirements of the future when they arise and the only recommendation that has been made to the Secretary of State for railway facilities for the new city is the construction of a railway station with sidings on the Agra chord at the estimated cost of 2½ lakhs.

From the statement that I have made—which I may point out could not possibly have been made at an earlier date—you will recognise that we are anxious to give the members of my Council the very fullest information. In giving you these figures it should be clearly understood that the scheme put forward is for the adequate establishment of the Government of India at Delhi. The estimate has been framed to provide for all that can be foreseen as likely to be required to enable the Government of India to effectively occupy their new headquarters. In regard to such public services as water supply, sanitation, and the general laying out and equipment of the new city with roads, public parks, etc., we have based our requirements upon a careful forecast of probable population and made all reasonable provision for future expansion.

Although we have considered it desirable to make provision in the estimate for all the residential accommodation that we consider necessary, it is anticipated that private capital will do its share in the development of the new city and erect a proportion of the residences which will be required for the accommodation of officers and clerks in some form or other, in which case we may expect to effect some reduction of expenditure under this head. It does not include public buildings such as museums, institutes, hospitals other than the civil hospital, etc., which will undoubtedly spring up in the future and cluster round the seat of Government.

All growing cities, even the oldest, develop every year with new buildings and new institutions, and the task of the Government of India is, and has been, to see that there is no waste and while not expending more than we can spare to be careful that we do not unduly restrict our plans or schemes merely in order to balance current expenditure in a manner to compromise their future, or to prevent our successors from enlarging or beautifying them in the future if they possess the means

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or the taste to do so. Much, no doubt, will be done by private initiative and it is very encouraging to find new educational establishments ready to spring up in the Capital of India, amongst them being a new St. Stephen's College, a Medical College for Women, the Begum of Bhopal's Girls' School, a Post-Graduate College for the sons and families of ruling chiefs and a college for Indian medicine. Sites for all of these have been requested and assigned and it is not too much to hope that Delhi may, in addition to its other features, become an important educational centre.

The educational conference held in Delhi last year and repeated only three weeks ago, when no less than twenty-four ruling chiefs were present as well as representatives of other native states, is of happy augury and an indication of the great advantage of the accessibility of the new Capital.

Although the guarded estimate of four millions sterling mentioned in the Government of India's despatch of the 25th August, 1911, will be exceeded I am confident that my Council and India as a whole will not regard the total figure now estimated as excessive and the speeches that I have heard in Council to-day add further confirmation to that confidence. India is worthy of a capital and the capital must be worthy of her. The provision of funds will be very carefully considered, so as to cause no embarrassment to the development of the country, and will be spread over at least eight years from its inception in 1912. You will also understand that the estimate now communicated to you does not purport to provide for the present and future needs of old Delhi in respect of sanitary reform and urban improvement generally. The Government of India have settled at Delhi and made themselves responsible for its administration by taking over the area in which it lies, an area which would otherwise have received special attention from the Punjab Government in connection with our general grants for education and sanitation, as also in respect of urgent public works. Sanitary advance is one of the main features of our general policy and we cannot allow the requirements of the old city to be prejudiced by the special demands for the new. On the contrary we shall expect a considerable advance to be made in the near future, partly from local resources and largely it may be from special Government grants if funds for this purpose are available. This question arises at once in framing our scheme for the water supply and sanitary equipment of the new Capital, and it is one which we cannot rightly set aside. Such outlay however is distinguishable and must be considered apart from the cost of building and equipping the new city and was so excluded in the original rough estimate of the latter made by the Government of India in 1911.

I may remind hon. members that in a speech delivered by the King-Emperor in Delhi on the 15th December, 1911—on which occasion all the members of my Council as then constituted were present, His Majesty used the following words:—

"I trust that the planning and designing of the public buildings to be erected will be considered with the greatest deliberation and care so that the new creation may prove in every way worthy of this ancient and beautiful city. May God's blessing rest upon the work which is so happily inaugurated to day." The commands of the King-Emperor have been faithfully obeyed by the Government of India, who will continue to do all in their power to carry out fully the wishes of His Majesty—a task in which we know that we have the support and confidence of the King-Emperor's loyal subjects in India.

It will not, I think, be regarded as an indiscretion if I say that I know from the highest source the immense interest that the King-Emperor takes in the progress of the creation of the new Capital and His Majesty's earnest desire that it shall be a worthy monument with which his name will always be identified.

LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS.

I will now say a few words about ourselves. During the past year and a half, since the present members have entered upon their office, the Legislative Council has dealt with a number of important measures, twenty of which have become law. The most noteworthy perhaps of these is the Indian Companies Act which has replaced the previous Act of 1882. In this lengthy measure, which is based to a large extent on modern English law, we have a code which as recently amended in this Council will place this important branch of commercial law upon a satisfactory footing in this country. We have also passed two Acts, one relating to the office of the Administrator-General and one to that of the Official Trustee, which though of less general interest are likely to be of considerable practical utility. During the current session we have passed an Act making the necessary modifications in the

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English Copyright Act for its application to India and in the Decentralisation Act, recently under the consideration of this Council, a law has been enacted which will be of great benefit in expediting and facilitating the work of Government. We have also still under consideration the important Bill for the Protection of Minor Girls living in undesirable surroundings. Although we are all actuated by one desire in respect of these minors, I observe that there have been divergent views as to the best method of securing protection for them. I hope and believe, however, that in the result we shall obtain a law which will be the means of rescuing numbers of children from lives of shame; and if for various reasons we are not at first as successful as the Government of the United Kingdom has been in dealing with this difficult question, we should not be discouraged but should continue our efforts, moving firmly but cautiously to achieve the desired object. If indeed we are able by any legislation to save from contamination but a fraction of the number of children who have been rescued in England under the provisions of the Children's Act of 1908, we shall not have laboured in vain.

The activities of this Council have not, however, been confined to legislation. A number of resolutions on matters of public interest have been discussed and carefully considered and the Government of India have received much assistance from the temperate and thorough manner in which the subjects under discussion have been debated; and even in those cases in w[illegible] Government have not been able to acc[illegible] the resolutions proposed, the debates have often been of great use in that they have placed Government in possession of the views of the non-official members and [illegible]ve promoted a careful consideration [illegible] examination of the questions under dis[illegible]sion from new points of view. I may [illegible] Mr. Gokhale's resolution on primary [illegible] and that of Sir G. M. Chitnavis on [illegible]s of a system of proferential tariffs [illegible]ularly interesting and instructive. [illegible] the discussion on jail administration [illegible]at of a resolution proposed by Mr. [illegible]ar, in which the whole question had [illegible]n carefully prepared by the hon. [illegible] has resulted in a decision to appoint a [illegible] to enquire into the whole sys[illegible]our prisons. It is my belief that [illegible]ry of this nature cannot fail to [illegible]neficial results of a far-reaching [illegible].

[illegible]e now finished and I must thank [illegible]bers for their patience and for[illegible] during a somewhat lengthy state[illegible] my part. I wish you all a happy [illegible] your homes and I now declare [illegible]on closed.

SOUTHERN INDIA.

MADRAS, 24TH MARCH.

[illegible]tain H. Colmore, A. D. C. to the [illegible]or of Madras, has been granted [illegible]ed leave on private affairs out of India [illegible]r months and 20 days with effect from [illegible]st instant and Captain J. A. Batchart, [illegible]A., A. D. C., combined leave on private [illegible]on of India for six months (the first [illegible]days to count as privilege leave) with [illegible]rom the 1st April.

ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

JUSTICE CHOUDHURI ANNOYED.

CALCUTTA, 24TH MARCH.

[illegible]eference to Mr Justice Choudhuri's com[illegible] to counsel yesterday that in a certain [illegible]s lordship received six anonymous letters, [illegible] his lordship addressing the same counsel [illegible]"I have received two more anonymous [illegible] from the same individual. The police [illegible] to be able to trace the writer of these [illegible]. The letters are not only with regard [illegible] matter being argued before me but there [illegible] typewritten extract from a certain [illegible]it with arguments. I have never been [illegible]d like this before. I don't know [illegible] can be done. If the writer of [illegible] letters is a woman I don't [illegible] whether she can be traced. But [illegible]g from the typewritten matter and [illegible]pe the writer of these letters ought to be [illegible] be traced. In one of the letters the [illegible] says that the Court expresses indigna[illegible]t being written to but that the writer [illegible] not approach the Court in any other [illegible].

Bagram: It is contempt of Court.

Justice Choudhuri: It is gross con[illegible] of court. The difficulty is to trace the [illegible]dual.

Bagram: The practice seems to be gene[illegible] I understand at the sessions also the jury [illegible] received anonymous threatening letters.

Justice Choudhuri: So I believe [illegible]sions ought to see these letters.

[illegible]h letters like the former were written in [illegible]ll, while the envelopes, which were [illegible]sed in English, bore the same super[illegible]on as that contained in the previous one.

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THE STATESMAN

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, MAR. 26.

It cannot be denied that there is cleverness of a sort in the course which Lord HARDINGE has taken of revealing by degrees the melancholy truth about the cost of New Delhi. At the outset of the undertaking it was necessary to keep down the estimate to a minimum. If the full facts had been disclosed, the British public, who have a certain amount of conscience in matters of this kind, would have rebelled against the monstrous proposal to spend ten millions sterling upon a new capital. Accordingly, the guess of four millions sterling was put forward, and it is well to remember that the project received the assent of the Home Government and of Parliament upon the strength of the confident assurance of the Government of India that the expenditure could be kept within the very considerable total which they named. When the estimate was challenged Lord HARDINGE defended it with great warmth. Any suggestions that the cost was likely to exceed four millions sterling he denounced as "irresponsible statements made "by interested persons." Had he not abandoned one new capital at Dacca which had only cost 70 lakhs, and was he not building another at Patna, which would cost only a crore? How then could the Government, which had such a unique experience in deserting and constructing capitals, be wrong in their estimate of six crores? Such was his argument two years ago. We are now in a position to make a new attribution of those elegant adjectives "irresponsible" and "interested." Who, it may be asked, made "irresponsible statements"? Those who warned the Government that their guesses at the cost were not worth the paper they were scribbled on—which is the truth—or the Government who, by their own showing, were out of their reckoning by two millions sterling? Lord HARDINGE has a liking for the word "interested." The criticism of Calcutta is "interested"; the applause of Bombay is "disinterested." The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has not stooped to make charges of this kind against the authors and supporters of New Delhi, but, since Lord HARDINGE forces the issue to this low level, it may not be out of place to point out that the only "interested" persons are the Viceroy and his colleagues. The merchants of Calcutta have not lost a rupee by the transfer of the Capital to Delhi. Lord HARDINGE and his Council have been considerable gainers. His EXCELLENCY receives a substantial entertaining allowance. How much has he saved by the attenuated hospitalities of Delhi? Members of Council are paid an absurdly high salary to compensate them for the expensiveness of Calcutta. What rent are they paying in Delhi? We have no wish to press these questions, but they will at least serve to suggest that Lord HARDINGE should be more careful of imputing to others motives which might as readily be put at his own door. The essential point, however, is that the protest of Calcutta against the supposed cheapness of the new Capital is proved to have been absolutely correct and just. Lord HARDINGE, in his present discomfiture, affects to think that the real blunder was to include any estimate in the notorious despatch. "Whether the "Government of India," he told the Legislative Council, "were wise in mentioning a figure in however guarded "a manner is, I frankly admit, open "to serious doubt." So he thinks now. He did not think or say so two years ago when, speaking to the same Council, he declared "I therefore do not at "all regret that the Government of "India mentioned a fixed sum of four "millions sterling, i.e., six crores, as the "probable cost of Delhi." The contrast between the jubilant VICEROY of 1912, flushed with his successful defiance of the constitutional observances of this country, and the penitent VICEROY of to-day, making his "frank "admissions," is interesting and edifying. It also points to the need of examining with unrelaxed vigilance the new version which has been given of the probable—still probable—cost of new Delhi. The result will be to show that the revised story is not much nearer to the facts than the exploded conjecture with which the sorry business began. The impression which the VICEROY's latest speech is calculated to give is that New Delhi will be built for six millions sterling. But in presenting this new estimate Lord HARDINGE leaves out several large heads of expenditure which are as much a part of the cost of the transferred capital as is the half a million sterling which is to be spent on Government House. He does not include the outlay on the new cantonment, on the ground that the garrison would have been strengthened owing to the strategical importance of Delhi, whether the Government of India had their seat there or not. But there is not a shadow of a doubt that the reason why a new cantonment is now to be built is that Delhi has become the capital. Lord HARDINGE indicates that the expenditure on railways for the convenience of Delhi has been postponed. But the plan is not definitely abandoned, and its cost is a part of the Delhi scheme. With a curious lack of humour, his EXCELLENCY excludes the cost of rendering old Delhi sanitary, because the watchword of the Government is sanitation and education. Does anyone seriously believe that any

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thought would have been bestowed on the disease-haunted old city if the Government of India were not afraid of so dangerous a neighbour? The sum of £1,000,000 which the cleansing of old Delhi will absorb is, once more, a part of the cost of the new capital. Last but not least, the cost of training the river and draining the swamps was not even mentioned. This will amount to at least another million sterling. When it is remembered, moreover, that the total of six millions which the Viceroy now exhibits is based on a project estimate, and that the details may yield a very different result, it will be seen that the "exaggerated and fantastic" estimate of ten millions sterling will probably be less than the actual outlay. The time will come, therefore, when Lord HARDINGE, or his successor, will appear before the Legislative Council with more "frank "admissions," costing many millions sterling, unless public opinion in this country and in England can be roused to some perception of the cruelty and folly of wasting the resources of a comparatively poor people upon a luxurious toy.

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The Englishman.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1914.

THE NEW ESTIMATE FOR DELHI.

LORD HARDINGE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER advised had he left out all mention of the KING EMPEROR in the speech in which he presented the revised estimate of the cost of new Delhi. When, at the hurried ceremony of laying foundation stones on a spot that afterwards had to be abandoned, the KING-EMPEROR expressed the hope that a worthy city would arise "from where we "now stand" (those are his words), HIS MAJESTY spoke under the spell of what we will charitably believe to have been honestly mistaken advice. A few days before, he had proclaimed the transfer of the Capital of India amidst surroundings of splendid pomp and circumstance. The glamour and romance of the great Durbar were still fresh in HIS MAJESTY's mind. He had been advised that the change of capital "would strike the "imagination of the people of India as no-"thing else could do, would send a wave of "enthusiasm throughout the country, and "would be warmly welcomed by the vast "majority of Indians throughout the con-"-"nent." All this, he was advised, could be achieved for the paltry sum of four millions sterling. HIS MAJESTY could not have thought that his advisers knew so little about their own scheme that the very stones he laid in the belief that they were to be the centre of the new city would have to be moved several miles away. He could not have foreseen that, instead of the wave of enthusiasm, there would arise all over the continent a persistent questioning of the wisdom of the move, criticisms of its extravagance, and serious irritation at the inconvenience it has caused to everybody concerned—and all without a single compensating gain. Certainly he could not have thought that his advisers were so careless as to greatly underestimate the cost, nor could he have foreseen a time when millions would be poured out upon this tawdry extravagance while famine held a neighbouring province in its relentless grip, and every trade in India was clamouring for facilities for development. The reality, in fact, is so much unlike the Durbar vision that the less the Government say about the latter the better. HIS MAJESTY must know that the despatches recommending the change have been torn into shreds, and both in India and in Great Britain it is now generally agreed by competent observers that, apart from the extravagance of the thing, for the Government to withdrew itself from close contact with the life and trade of India is a stupid mistake. When the VICEROY remarked that carrying out the wishes of HIS MAJESTY was "a task in which we know that we "have the support and confidence of the "KING-EMPEROR's loyal subjects in India" we trust he meant to draw no invidious distinction, by the use of the word "loyal," between those who support him and those who frankly and strenuously oppose him. Those of us who oppose the Delhi scheme do not yield to LORD HARDINGE or anybody else in our loyalty. Candour compels us to say that HIS EXCELLENCY might have chosen a less offensive form of expression, but we trust it will be explained that no lèse-majesté was meant by what was clearly a most unfortunate phrase.

Come we now to HIS EXCELLENCY's revised estimate. LORD HARDINGE has done well to admit frankly that the four millions was wrong, and now perhaps he will see the absurdity of the speech in which, a few years ago, he set out to "correct the irresponsible "statements of interested persons." The VICEROY who made the apologetic statement on Tuesday was a less jaunty and confident man than the VICEROY who told his "auditable critics" that he had good reason to believe that "the sum of four millions will with "proper care and supervision be in the end "but little if at all exceeded by the time the "city is built." By aint of careful pruning the revised estimate has been reduced to £5,113,020, and being pardonably uncertain of the accuracy of this a further million sterling is put down for contingencies, so that already the original estimate is 50 per cent out! The irresponsibility of those who questioned it is no more apparent than the irresponsibility of those who put it forward. We should like to know, however, whether the cost of the temporary works has been included in this new estimate. Taking the accounts for 1912-13, the revised estimates for 1913-14 and the budget estimate for 1914-15, the construction and maintenance of the temporary city will have cost by the end of the financial year about to begin well over £400,000. We see no mention of this in HIS EXCELLENCY's estimate though it should obviously be included as an integral part of his plan. It is also worthy of note that by the end of 1915 the initial outlay on the permanent city will have come to more than a million and a quarter sterling, or about a quarter of the sum now estimated as the cost of the entire undertaking, and there will not be a stone to show for it, probably not a road or a tree or a blade of grass either. We are justified, therefore, in still doubting the accuracy of the project estimate. Moreover, it is to be noted that the sum of £5,113,000 has been arrived at by eliminating the cost of the new Cantonment and of certain railway works which would not have been undertaken except for the building of the new capital. As to the former, we can only say that the discovery of the strategical importance of Delhi is a somewhat belated one, and with Meerut and its large garrison so close at hand, the necessity of making another large garrison in the unhealthy vicinity of Delhi is not easily

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apparent. The sanitary improvements necessary in the old city have not been included in the revised estimate either; yet it is patent to everyone that these have been rendered very expensive and very desirable by the mere fact of the removal of the capital. They must therefore be counted in, for they would certainly not have been undertaken on so great a scale, if they had been undertaken at all, had not Delhi been suddenly elevated from a picturesque but insanitary town into the seat of the Supreme Government.

Space does not allow a more detailed examination of these revised estimates, nor is their examination from the point of view of comparative economy easy while Government withholds such important details as the number of the population, official and non-official the size and number of the secretariats, the extent of roads, parks and so on, on which the estimates have been framed. We have said enough to show that LORD HARDINGE, who has proved so unsuccessful a financial prophet in the past is still standing on extremely doubtful ground When all the things that the change of capital has involved have been done, we are still confident that the cost will be nearer ten millions than the six millions which HIS EXCELLENCY now believes to be the limit of the extravagance. But apart from the cost, which is in itself a monstrous scandal, the location of the capital at Delhi is a mistake that must not be persisted in. LORD HARDINGE says that the scheme put forward is "for "the adequate establishment of the Govern-"ment of India at Delhi." It is clear from his speech, in fact, that HIS EXCELLENCY is determined blindly to pursue a policy of financial extravagance which has no administrative merit to commend it. We note the complete absence from his speech of any attempt to justify the location of the capital in this remote wilderness. There is no endeavour to meet the very grave practical objections to Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Government which have manifested themselves during the past few years. He has the faith of a fanatic in his plan. He does not condescend to prove its necessity or to justify it against the damaging criticisms which it has suffered, although every reason originally advanced in favour of the move has been either shown to be hollow or abandoned by its authors. The thing would be ludicrous if it were not so wilfully foolish and disastrous. If the blunder is to be rectified before more money is thrown away on this idle gew-gaw it is obvious that we must appeal to some higher authority than the VICEROY'S Council. It is necessary that the Imperial Government at Westminster should be asked to justify or definitely to end a folly which can only lead India along the road of financial embarrassment and administrative inefficiency.

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betr.: Statement Lord Hardinge's.

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betr.: Polizei in Calcutta.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_055

Betr.: Türkische Dankesbriefe.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_056

A 7717 pr. 20. April 1914. pm
1 Anl.

Der Staatssekretär
des
Reichs-Kolonialamts.

Berlin W. 8, den 20. April 1914.
Wilhelmstr. 62.

Nr. A. II. 1618./14.
17729.

A 6607 ist n. i. Akt. reg.

Urschriftlich mit 1 Anlage

dem Herrn Staatssekretär des Auswärtigen Amts

nach Kenntnisnahme ergebenst zurückgereicht.

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pSa d 21/4

REICHS-KOLONIALAMT

Hergl. Kol. Afrika 2

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A 8553 pr. 2. Mai 1914. Ans. 1 Anl.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 117

SIMLA, den 9. April 1914.

1 Anlage.

Für Generalstab.

U. I. St. 2. MAI

Ew. Exzellenz beehre ich mich einen leitenden Artikel des " Pioneer " vom 2. April ds. Jahres betr. die Worte Lord Haldane's über Armeereform vorzulegen, welcher, ich darf wohl sagen, die Stimmung der gesamten Anglo-indischen Armee widerspiegelt.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_058

Anlage zu Bericht № 117. Simla.

The Pioneer, 2nd April 1914.

THOSE LIBERAL JOURNALS WHICH HAVE BEEN raging furiously against General Gough and the officers at the Curragh for daring to possess a conscience—which they appear to regard as the monopoly of the Nonconformist passive resister—and have been imagining vain things about the democratisation of the army would do well to ponder carefully the words of Viscount Haldane in the House of Lords. As one might perhaps have anticipated, Lord Haldane did not appreciate the gravity of the issue as it affects the honour and conscience of Army officers, and he shares with all the members of the present Government an utter inability to realise the elementary facts that the army can only be used to enforce the people's will upon a recalcitrant minority when it has an overwhelming majority of the people behind it, but that the will of a relatively small majority cannot be enforced against the wishes of almost half the nation without provoking civil war; and it is this which differentiates the South African deportations from the Irish policy of the Home Government. But on the subject of the democratisation of the army Lord Haldane spoke words of wisdom and candour which, however unpalatable they may be to demagogues and their ignorant dupes, represent the true state of the case with tolerable accuracy. Lord Haldane warned all whom it might concern that "an attempt to democratise the army would be attended with enormous difficulties"; that "it would take fifteen years and entail enormous expenditure"; and, last and most damaging admission of all, that "it would not equal the present splendid service." So, it seems, there is something to be said for birth and tradition after all, even in the eyes of a Radical Cabinet Minister. Our imagination fairly boggles at the attempt to conjure up a vision of the British army officered by the "white babus" of the League of Young Liberals and other democrats who regard all war as necessarily sinful and reprehensible, and who set an inordinate store on the value of the life of the individual. In the eyes of these enlightened gentlemen the Baluchi Khan who told the Public Services Commission to their face that what was wanted in the services was "men of good family," and who proceeded to expatiate upon the similarity of the principles affecting the breeding of horses and camels and men, may be an untutored barbarian whose mind has not yet been penetrated by the advance of civilisation, but he was expounding a truism which has played its part in the making of history since the world began.

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48554 pr. 2. Mai 1914. am.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Simla, 16. April 1914.

Ber. Nr. 129.

D. A. St. 2. MAI

Die Hetze der grossen Blätter der anglo-indischen Presse gegen das Jungtürkentum scheint wieder anzuheben. Ein Artikel des „ Statesman „ ist angeschlossen. Bisher sind Ausfälle gegen Deutschland, wie sie noch vor einem Jahr an der Ordnung waren, in diesem Zusammenhang ausgeblieben und auch sonst hat diese Presse hinsichtlich Vorfällen, die früher ausgeschlachtet worden wären, strenge Diskretion geübt. Die Neigung, die alten Bahnen wieder zu betreten, scheint sich jedoch etwas zu verstärken.

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Herrn Reichskanzler,
Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_060

The Statesman, April 14, 1914.

THERE would appear to be some danger lest Anglo-Turkish relations may become seriously strained over the case of COLONEL AZIZ ALI Bey el Masri. AZIZ ALI Bey is an Egyptian Arab who is highly esteemed in Cairo. When the Turco-Italian war broke out he served with the Ottoman Army, doing brilliant work before Derna with ENVER Bey, as the Turkish War Minister was then known. It has always been understood that there was some jealousy between the two officers and that ENVER dreaded being overshadowed by his subordinate. When peace was declared AZIZ ALI, like the other Turkish officers, was recalled. He has since remained in Constantinople throughout the changes of régime which followed the Turkish reverses. Two months ago, however, he was placed under arrest, ostensibly for resigning his commission on being ordered to Asia Minor. From that date to this, AZIZ ALI Bey has never been put on his trial according to any approved legal process. Doubts are indeed expressed as to whether his arrest was occasioned by any crime more heinous than his competition with ENVER Pasha in the military sphere. In any case it will be understood that some excitement was manifested in Cairo when it was rumoured that AZIZ ALI had been condemned to be executed. Should it transpire that such a sentence was passed without inquiry and should the sentence be carried out public opinion in Egypt would be seriously affected and it is already openly hinted in London that a political murder by the Turkish Government of an Egyptian subject under the protection of Great Britain could not be disregarded by the British Foreign Office. It would be unnecessary to discuss this contingency were it not for the case of KAVAKLI Pasha who was arrested a few months back as a common malefactor on board a Russian vessel. In effect the charge against him was a political one but before the Russian Government could protest it was announced that KAVAKLI had committed suicide. Were this wretched fate to befall AZIZ ALI it would be the duty of the British Government to protest effectively in Constantinople and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that such a miscarriage of justice might be the prelude to a change in the status of Egypt. The action of Great Britain in regard to Moslem Powers is so often open to misconstruction, particularly for purposes of agitation, that it is desirable to make the points of the case quite clear. British public opinion demands that AZIZ ALI shall be tried in a civilised fashion and if found innocent released. It bases its interest in the case on the ground that AZIZ ALI is an Egyptian subject and that political murders of the KAVAKLI type, which have been all too common recently in Turkey, make it increasingly difficult for Great Britain to give effect to her good intentions where the future of the Ottoman dominions is concerned.

A 8554/14

PAAA_RZ201_019352_061

A 8555 pm. 2. Mai 1914. hm. 7 Anl. mitg. Anl. orig. – Ew. Gen. Stab.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

SIMLA, den 15. April 1914.

Ber. Nr. 132.

Auf Erlass A.No 14 vom 12. März 1914.x)

x) E 4591/3 liegt bei

Berichterstatter: E. von Rosen.

U. U. St. 2. MAI

g. v. B. Geschäfte g. Ü. hm 4/4

Ew. Excellenz beehre ich mich die hier wieder beigefügten Pressausschnitte mit vorschriftsmässigen Begleitberichten einzureichen.

1) Lord Curzon's Reformen in der Verwaltung der Nordwest Grenze sind unlängst Gegenstand kritischer Pressbetrachtungen gewesen.

Die " Times of India " vom 11. Februar ds. Js. fragt, ob es nicht Zeit sei, die Grenzpolitik überhaupt einer Revision zu unterwerfen, damit sich Vorfälle, die Ermordung von britischen Offizieren durch ihre eigenen Rekruten, systematische Verhetzung der Leute gegen ihre Offiziere, Ueberfall auf einen Postzug usw. nicht wiederholten. Schon jetzt sei man von dem Grundsatz, Bewachung der Grenze durch Irreguläre aus den Grenzstämmen selbst, abgewichen, indem man weiter entfernt wohnende Stämme

und

Seiner Excellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Engl. Botschaft Pekingen 17 St.

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und Leute aus dem Punjab zur Rekrutierung heranziehe. Es frage sich, ob nicht die Gebiete jenseits des Indus, soweit sie angesiedelt seien, dem Punjab wieder einverleibt, die übrigen Teile der Provinz aber unter einen Militär-Gouverneur gestellt werden könnten, da vor dessen Machtmittel allein die kriegerischen Grenzstämme Respekt hätten.

In ähnlichem Sinne äussert sich auch " The Tribune " Lahore, in der Ausgabe vom 14. Februar ds. Js.

Gleichfalls mit der Grenzpolitik und der gegenwärtig in der Nord-West Provinz herrschenden Unsicherheit beschäftigt sich " The Englishman " vom 21. Februar ds. Js. , dessen Ausführungen Beachtung verdienen, da Sir George Ross-Keppel's Ansichten wiedergegeben werden. Danach drohe die Gefahr nicht von den längst der Grenze hausenden Stämmen, sondern von den auf britischem Territorium (Punjab) angesiedelten Pathans, die in steigendem Masse Missachtung vor der Regierung an den Tag legten und die Nachbarschaft ansteckten. Nur energische, sofort zu ergreifende Massnahmen könnten Abhilfe schaffen, wobei die beteiligten Provinzial behörden engstens zusammenzuarbeiten hätten.

Über Truppenbewegungen, die vielleicht mit der Unsicherheit im Grenzgebiet in Verbindung gebracht werden könnten, weiss der " Englishman " vom 21. Februar ds. Js. folgendes zu melden: The Durham Light Infantry, seither in Nowshera, rückt nach Attock in Garnison; Regiment Sussex, z. Zt.

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Lager hat das schwere Gepäck nach Peshawar geschickt; the First Transport Corps, Peshawar, hat Marschorder erhalten.

Ferner berichtet der " Statesman " vom 19. Februar ds. Js., dass die Derajat-Brigade durch die schnelle Verschiebung des Indus-Stromlettes gezwungen werde, von Dera Ismail Khan nach Tank zu rücken, wo ein neues Kasernement errichten werden soll. Brigadestab kommt nach Tank, etwa 40 Meilen westlich von Dera Ismail Khan, am Fusse der Vorberge im Gebiete der Mahsud Wazirí gelegen. Nur ein Regiment der Brigade soll als Besatzung von Dera Ismail Khan City zurückbleiben, die an geschützter Stelle gelegen und durch das Vordringen des Indus nicht gefährdet sei.

(2) Der bekannte Parlamentarier MacDonald, der Indien während der cold season besuchte, hat sich über die aktuellen Tagesfragen nach " The Leader " Allahabad, vom 11. Februar ds. Js. und " The Comrade " Delhi, vom 14. Februar ds. Js. recht eingehend geäussert. Im Vordergrund des Interesses stehe die Frage der Behandlung der Inder in Südafrika. Hier sei das Bemerkenswerte, dass Hindus und Mohamedaner einmütig zusammengingen. Man verlange, dass den Wünschen der Inder in Angelegenheiten des Imperiums mehr Beachtung geschenkt werde. Er glaube ferner aus den gemeinsamen Kundgebungen im Lande eine Stimmung für eine Regierungsform herausfühlen zu können, die in proxi dem selfgovernment gleichkomme. Lord Hardinge's Rede in

Madras

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Madras sei da bedeutungsvoll gewesen. Immer mehr scheine sich die politische Ansicht der Inder von der der Anglo-Inder zu entfernen. Auch über die Arbeiterfrage, sowie über die neue Hauptstadt Delhi sind MacDonalds Eindrücke wiedergegeben.

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A 8556 pr. 21. Mai 1914. an

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Ber. Nr. 133.

Simla, 16. April 1914.

Vertraulich!

U. U. St. 2. MAI

Der neue französische Generalkonsul, de la Bâtie, den ich, wie auch seine liebenswürdige Gattin von China her kannte, hat dem Konsularkorps für Indien angenehmen Zuwachs gebracht. Er ist, offenbar auf Instruktion seiner Regierung, auch hier in Simla erschienen und hat eine Villa (Milsington) gemietet. Herr de la Bâtie war als Schutzherr der grossen französischen Konzession in Shanghai dort natürlich eine gewichtige Persönlichkeit und mit Arbeit belastet, während er hier recht wenig zu tun hat. Indien, wo zudem manche fremde Vertreter, wenn auch gewiss nicht sozial, so doch geschäftlich ein mehr toleriertes Dasein führen, scheint ihm daher nicht sonderlich zu behagen. Er klagte mir neulich laut über diese Dinge und rief: je me rouille ! Über seinen Vorgänger spricht er natürlich mit Takt und à mots couverts, dennoch mit Deutlichkeit. Er betrachtet Indien als einen etwas langweiligen entre'acte und hofft, bald einen Gesandtenposten zu erhalten.

Der russische Generalkonsul, der wiederum sein kleines Häuschen im Schatten von Snowden, der Villa des Commander-in-Chief, bewohnt, scheint sich in Simla weniger zu gefallen

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Herrn Reichskanzler,
Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Geh. Leg. Sekr. 2

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fallen, wie im Anfang. Er ist soeben mit seiner valise nach Calcutta gefahren, wo er seine Depeschen nur dem einmal im Monat verkehrenden Messageries-Dampfer anvertraut. Seine Popularität, auch in Viceregal Lodge, hat etwas gelitten, was für ihn eine Härte sein mag, da er danach strebte. Seine starke Nervosität hat ihn vielleicht verhindert, seine allgemeine Haltung den Engländern gegenüber, die er im Herzen wohl verabscheut, auf eine ruhige und sichere Basis zu stellen. Ich höre, dass er im Herbst nach Petersburg reisen will. Er wird es hier über den renard en sabots, den er heute unbewusst spielt, kaum hinausbringen.

R Auchen

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A 8557 pr. 21. Mai 1914. Orn.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

SIMLA, den 16. April 1914.

Ber. Nr. 135.

mitg. - Bt London Bt

VERTRAULICH!

D. U. St. 2. MAI

Das hiesige Department für Auswaertige Angelegenheiten befindet sich zur Zeit in einem führerlosen Zustand. Sir Henry McMahon, welcher die tibetanischen Verhandlungen, wie er mir sagt, bis Anfang Mai zu beenden hofft, wird dann nach Hause gehen und im Winter vielleicht Lord Hardinge nach Burma begleiten, die Leitung des Auswärtigen aber kaum mehr übernehmen. Mr. J.B. Wood ist an Malaria erkrankt und arbeitsunfähig; der soeben eingetroffene Sir Percy Cox ist in Sachen, die nicht gerade Persien und den Golf betreffen, völlig unorientiert. So hat zeitweilig ein subalterner Geist in die Führung eingegriffen, zumal Lord Hardinge zu ausgedehnten Jagdbesuchen beim Maharaja von Gwalior und andern Fürsten weilt und dort Tiger schiesst. Viele, und darunter ich selbst, werden den Weggang Sir Henry McMahon's bedauern. Er konnte zuweilen, namentlich wenn er zwischen Aktenstössen auf

seinem

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

Auf Bef. Afrika 2

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seinem Schreibtisch empfing, etwas Hartes und Ungefälliges haben. Er ist aber zweifellos der erfahrenste und selbständigste Leiter des auswaertigen Dienstes unter allen in Betracht kommenden Persönlichkeiten. Mein persischer Kollege, der mehr als die andern Vertreter, mit ihm zu verhandeln hatte, meinte vertraulich, keiner der oben Genannten werde seinem Lande so offene Gesinnung entgegentringen und es wagen, dem Vizekönig, der alles darauf ablegt, um sein Schosskind, das Russisch-englische Abkommen ungefährdet zu erhalten, gelegentlich entgegenzutreten. Die blinde Anfeindung der persischen gendarmerie das weite Entgegenkommen in Sachen transpersischer bahn, sei Alles das persönliche Werk Hardinge's. McMahon habe ehrlich von Anfang an jeder anglo-indischen Intervention entgegengearbeitet und sei erfüllt vom Gedanken, dass eine persische Selbständigkeit die beste Garantie für Indien sei.

Ich glaube allerdings zu wissen, dass Sir Henry McMahon von tiefem Misstrauen gegen Russland beseelt ist, weshalb auch mein russischer Kollege von Anbeginn seines Aufenthalts an mit Insinuationen gegen ihn nicht sparte. Sir Percy Cox soll, was ich aus Erfahrung nicht zu bestätigen vermag, zu den Auffassungen des Vizekönigs neigen, der übrigens die auswaertigen Beziehungen als sein persönliches Reservat selbst zu entscheiden wünscht. Seine Stimme ist insofern von entscheidendem Gewicht, als im

britischen

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britischen Organismus eine Aktion, welche auf die Ressourcen Indiens angewiesen ist, gegen das votum des Viceroy in Council kaum denkbar ist. Ich glaube, dass es bis zu dem, im Herbst 1916 expirierenden Amtstermin des gegenwärtigen Vizekönigs bedeutungslos ist, wer im Einzelnen seine Ratgeber sein mögen, solange keiner unter ihnen ist, der, wie McMahon, seine Stimme zur Geltung zu bringen vermag.

v. Dirksen

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Inhalt: Auswärtiger Dienst.

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PAAA_RZ201_019352_071

Inhalt: Persönliches aus dem Konsularkorps.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_072

zu A 8555 f.

Dem Herrn

Chef des Generalstabes der Armee

Abschr. der Vorlage.

ohne die sämtl. Anlagen im Original

zur ....gefl..... Kenntnisnahme erg. übersandt.

die sämtlichen Anlagen stehen zur Verfügung.

mit Dank zurück

Berlin, den 6ten Mai 1914.

(Stempel).

J.V.: 5852.

7/5. 8 pm. 8 Anl. Kd. An 6/5

Lef. Sch. Abem 2

A 5/5

PAAA_RZ201_019352_073

A 9010 pr. 8. Mai 1914. pm.

Kaiserlich
Deutsches Generalkonsulat
für Britisch Indien und die Kolonie Ceylon,
Calcutta.

Simla, 16. April 1914.

Ber. Nr. 130.

Vertraulich !

Nirmal Roy, der wie ich zu berichten die Ehre hatte (Bericht N= 89 v. 12. v. Mts.), wegen Mords und Totschlags, verübt am Polizeikommissar Ghose bezw. am Knaben Ananta Teli in Calcutta freigesprochen wurde, ist nun auch von der jury wegen abetments (Beihülfe) entlastet worden. Nach indischem Prozessrecht konnte der vorsitzende High-Court Judge, was er auch tat, die Sache erneut vor drei Richter des High Court verweisen. Die prosecution zog jedoch mit einem Antrag auf nolle prosequi die Anklage zurück. Man wollte offenbar das politische odium vermeiden, dass ein Bengale, der von 2 juries freigesprochen, von einer Majorität englischer Richter dennoch verurteilt werde. Es hat grosses und unliebsames Aufsehen in englischen Kreisen erregt, dass der Verteidiger, der glänzende barrister Eardley Norton, der selbst etwas indisches Blut in den Adern hat, systematisch Engländer als Geschworene ablehnte. Die Unfähigkeit und Korruption der Polizei in Calcutta sind arg an den Pranger gestellt worden.

Es wäre interessant zu erfahren, wer die Kosten der Verteidigung trägt. Mr. Norton ist unterhalb eines salaire von Rs 1000/- für jeden Tag, wo er im Court zu tun hat,

nicht

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Herrn Reichskanzler,
Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg.

PAAA_RZ201_019352_075

ZD.

No. 1073/5.14. Z1.

A. D.
28. MAI 1914

C. D.
27. JUN. 1914

Ausf. 572-5, CD, 9.5

U. R. AD 3. 5.

Gal.

Hauptb.

Gal. I 22/6. Gal. J. A.

Gal.

Gal.

CD Marinenachrichten.

J. A.

Lge 27/5.

530/6.14 A5.

406/6 14 C+3

46 5/6.14 A4

279/7.14. R7

1636/6.14

1280/5 14 Ai

286. 6 14. A2

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Gnl.
R. I
G. M.
Abt. 5/7 ob.

K. Mi. an Generalstab
8. JUL. 1914

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1 Mappe mit 15 Anl.

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3. Abteilung
11. JUL. 1914
Nr. 1837. I

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A 9012 pr. 8. Mai 1914. pm

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Kaiserlich Deutsches Konsulat
Colombo.

Colombo, den 16.April 1914.

J. - Nr 261/14

A 9013

Eurer Excellenz

beehre ich mich, ganz ergebenst zu berichten, dass heute auf Veranlassung des Herrn Majors von Hochwaechter ein Postpaket, enthaltend Photographien und Schriftstuecke, an das Hohe Auswaertige Amt abgesandt wurde.

Der Kaiserliche Konsul
i.V.

An Seine Excellenz den Reichskanzler
Herrn Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg
BERLIN.

A 15207 15

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A 9013 pr. 8. Mai 1914. pm
1 Bot. mit 6 Anl.
1 " " 9 "
zur Mappe
11758

Colombo, im April 1914

Euer Excellenz

erlaube ich mir, in der Anlage zwei Berichte ganz ergebenst zu uebersenden, da mir seiner Zeit vom Kaiserlich Deutschen Konsul mitgeteilt wurde, es sei dem Hohen Auswaertigen Amte erwuenscht, dass ihm meine Reiseeindruecke zu Gute kaemen.

Ich habe in beifolgenden Berichten versucht, meine Eindruecke in Indien ueber politische und militaerische Fragen, soweit es in meinen Kraeften stand, niederzulegen.

Ich glaubte, dies wagen zu duerfen, da ich durch die ueberaus grosse Gastfreundschaft der Englaender und die Vermittlung der englischen Regierung von dem Leben und der Stimmung unter der einheimischen Bevoelkerung, insbesondere an den Fuerstenhoefen und von der Armee mehr zu sehen bekam, als man sonst von einer dreimonatigen Reise durch ganz Indien erwarten darf.

Mit dem Ausdrucke meiner vorzueglichsten Hochachtung verbleibe ich

Euer Excellenz

gehorsamster

J. von Hochwaechter.

Seiner Excellenz dem Herrn Reichskanzler
Staatsminister Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg

B E R L I N

Angl. Bef. Afrika 2
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Die » sogenannte » indische Gefahr.

Ueberall spricht man von der sogenannten, indischen Gefahr. die Zeitungen bringen lange Spalten und es werden Broschueren geschrieben, aber der Europaeer kann sich schlecht ein Bild machen, was darunter gemeint ist.-

Die einen denken, Indien koenne einmal von einer anderen Macht erobert werden, sobald es in politische, oder innere Schwierigkeiten verwickelt wuerde, die anderen sehen die drohende Gefahr in Indien selbst, als einen Kampf der Rassen vor Augen.-

Es ist allgemein bekannt, dass die Achillesferse Indiens bis vor kurzem die Nordwestgrenze war. Deshalb hat die Regierung sich noerdlich von Peshawar einen Pufferstaat zwischen der indischen Grenze und Afghanistan geschaffen. Man versteht darunter einen etwa 60 bis 100 Meilen breiten Landstrich, der zwischen der indischen Grenze und der Durandlinie in Afghanistan liegt. Der Emir hat England bekanntlich zugestanden, diesen Landstrich unter Kontrolle zu nehmen, falls es der Regierung notwendig erscheine.

Alle Invasionen haben bisher dort stattgefunden und die Hauptpaesse fuer die Eroberungszuege seit Alexander dem Grossen sind der Khayber Pass bei Peshawar und der Hindu Raj Pass gewesen. Ferner kommen in Frage:

1. die Chitral Strasse nach Chakdara,
2. die Hassan Abdal Abbottabad Strasse nach Kashmir,
3. die Khushalgarh Strasse nach Ghazni-Kabul und
4. die Kajuri Strasse nach Mukur.

Diese Grenze auszubauen und zu befestigen, ist in den allerletzten Jahren das eifrigste Bestreben der Englaender gewesen. Ein Besuch des Khayber Passes und der Nordwestgrenze, der Forts und Militaer-

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lager ist fuer den Reisenden, besonders fuer einen Militaer, hoechst interessant. M^an erhaelt einen Einblick in das sys - tematische Vorgehen der Englaender und staunt ueber das, was in so kurzer Zeit geleistet wurde.

Bis zum Jahre 1849 befand sich dieses Land in den Haenden der Sikhs, eines wilden Voelkerstammes. Die hoch - gewachsenen, kampfgewoehnten, praechtigen Gestalten der Sikhs werden heute gerne als Rekruten in die Regimenter eingestellt und sie haben sich bisher stets als treu erwiesen. 60 Jahre lang haben die Englaender dann, um jeden Fussbreit kaempfend, die unwirtsamen Berge erobert, Strassen, Kanaele, Eisenbahnen, Bruecken und Forts gebaut und heute ist es wohl unter nor - malen Verhaeltnissen kaum moeglich, einen Einbruch in Indien von Norden her an dieser Stelle zu erzwingen. Ein ganzer Guer- tel von Forts ist erstanden und hinter der ersten Fortlinie befindet sich in der Hoehe von Rawalpindi-Attock eine zweite, die als Aufnahmestellung gedacht ist.

Delhi - Lahore - Attock - Peshawar sind starke Militaerstationen; die Bruecken ueber die Indusarme, aus denen dieser gebildet wird, sind befestigt. In Landi Kotal ist ein grosses Militaerlager und das dortige Fort, sowie diejenigen im Khayber - Pass selbst bis Jamrud sind gute, die Passstrassen beherrschende Positionen. Das Gelaende ist, ausser auf diesen Strassen fuer eine Armee gaenzlich unpassierbar. Bahnlinien gehen ueberall bis an den Fuss des Himalaja nach Durgai-Jamrud und Thal. In den grossen Waffenplaetzen, wie Rawalpindi und Attock sind enorme Depots und Trainkolonnen mit Mauleselbe - spannung vorhanden.

Im Jahre 1901 wurde dieses Land als Nordwest - Provinz vom Punjab - Gebiet abgetrennt und unter Sir Harold Dane als Chief Commissioner gestellt. Zugleich hatte die Armee es Lord Kitchener zu danken, dass er einen Generalstab schuf und die Truppen nach einem gewissen strategischen Plan

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konzentrierte, indem er ihre Verteilung nach einem bis ins einzelne ausgearbeiteten Mobilmachungsplane anordnete. Aus dem Jahre 1857 des Aufstandes haben die Englaender in Indien viel gelernt und das vorzueglich ausgebaute Eisenbahnnetz, die vielen, guten Strassen, Kanaele, Telegrafenlinien und Markoni-stationen in den Forts haben System in die Truppenverteilung gebracht und machen eine allgemeine Ueberrumpelung unmoeglich. Die Armee wird fortdauernd im Norden durch Manoever und die kleinen Strafexpeditionen an den Grenzen mobil erhalten. Die Art der Rekrutierung und Ausbildung der Truppe ist den Ver - haeltnissen voll angepasst.

Einige Militaers sehen, begruendet durch die Verschiebung der Machtstellung nach Nordwesten, auch in der Verlegung von Indiens Hauptstadt nach Delhi eine Verbesserung. Andere befuerchten, dass die Regierung, im Falle eines Krieges, gezwungen sein wird, nach Bombay oder Calcutta zu gehen, um unter dem Schutz der Häfen zu stehen und dieses wuerde bei der Bevoelkerung einen schlechten Eindruck hervorrufen. Eng - land ist heute in der Lage, in kuerzester Zeit grosse Truppen-massen an die Grenze zu werfen. Der Ausbau der Haefen von Bombay, Karachi und Calcutta ermoeglichen es, im Falle eines Krieges jeden Monat 30 000 Mann (white faces) aus anderen Kolonieen zu landen. Das mag technisch moeglich sein, erscheint aber doch sehr optimistisch gedacht - die Leute werden in dieser Staerke weder in Egypten noch Suedafrika oder Hinter - indien entbehrlich sein, die Kosten wuerde England schon tragen koennen.

Hier also sieht der Englaender keine Gefahr, aber in den letzten zwei Jahren hat sich westlicher, in Quetta, ein neues Arbeitsfeld aufgetan. Die persische Frage scheint hier eine Umwaelzung hervorgerufen zu haben. Alle Augen richten sich heute dorthin und Quetta-Karachi ist in aller Munde. Man

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spricht hier von den »new happenings in Persia, which will not only make Karachi a great place, but will give us a new north - western frontier of immense importance.«-

Ein Blick auf die Karte zeigt, dass nur wenige Eisenbahnlinien nach dieser Grenze fuehren, da die Thar-(indische) Wueste in Rayputana zwischen den grossen Bahnlinien Bombay-Delhi und Karachi-Lahore liegt. Diese wasserarme Gegend wuerde im Ruecken der englischen Verteidigungssphaere liegen. Neuerdings haben Truppenverschiebungen dorthin stattgefunden und das Bahnnetz soll ausgebaut werden. Der Bau der Bagdadbahn, Deutschlands Interessen in Anatolien, die russisch - tuerkischen scheinbaren Gelueste auf Persien haben England Vorkehrungsmassregeln treffen lassen. Man spricht, so absurd es klingen mag, ernstlich davon, als ob Deutschland im Verein mit der befreundeten Tuerkei ueber kurz oder lang in Indien einbrechen koennte.

Nicht umsonst werden jaehrlich viele, indische Offiziere, die hindustanisch und persisch sprechen, nach Arabien geschickt, um in Damaskus usw. arabisch zu lernen und Beziehungen mit den Schechs zwischen dem Libanon und Bagdad anzuknuepfen. Jetzt verstand ich den Zweck, indem ich einige dieser Offiziere an der persisch- arabischen Grenze wiederfand. Vor 20 Jahren tat Sir Alfred Lyall, ein guter Kenner Indiens den Ausspruch » English dominion once firmly planted in Asia is not likely to be shaken unless supplanted by a stronger european rival.« Dies ist heute noch richtig, denn wer sollte nach menschlicher Voraussicht der »staerkere Rivale« sein. Da ist fuer England wohl vorderhand nichts zu fuerchten. Aber Sir Alfred rechnete nicht mit dem Faktor einer schwaechlichen, inneren Regierung und schweren Fehlern derselben, die kaum gut zu machen sind.

Die Gefahr fuer Indien liegt tiefer und zwar in der mohamedanisch-hindustanischen Annaeherung, hervorgerufen

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durch die Erziehung, die fortschreitende Bildung der indischen Bevoelkerung und die Folgeerscheinungen der tuerkischen Kriege. Diese Bewegung ist den Englaendern nicht entgangen und damit komme ich auf den zweiten Gesichtspunkt der »indischen Gefahr« zu sprechen, der Gefahr im Innern selbst, von aussen droht der englischen Regierung nur Gefahr, wenn ein aeusserer Feind sich einen Aufstand im Innern zu Nutzen machen wuerde und koennte.

Sehr viele, mit der Regierung unzufriedene Englaender sagen: »India is going to the dogs«! Es sei kein Leben fuer den weissen Mann in Indien. Darin liegt viel Wahres und viel Uebertreibung. Es gibt viele, die Indien aufgegeben sehen moechten, es seien ja bessere, britische Kolonieen vorhanden, in denen das Klima zu ertragen sei. Tatsaechlich geht der Englaender weder nach Indien, um dort zu leben, noch um Geld zu verdienen. Die einen lockt das Neue und der Reiz, an dem grossen Kulturwerk mitzuarbeiten, die anderen treibt der grosse Sportssinn. Die Frauen aber sind zu bewundern, sie bringen die groessten Opfer und es gibt nur wenige Plaetze, wie Peshawar, Simla, Darjeeling und Ootacamund, wo im Sommer ein ertraegliches Klima herrscht. In vielen Plaetzen, besonders in kleinen Garnisonen, ist von der Regierung fuer ihre Landsleute schlecht gesorgt. Sie leben zu wenigen unter den natives und wohnen in elenden Bungalows. Nur zu bald stellt sich Heimweh ein und die Unzufriedenheit bricht sich laut Bahn, wenn man nicht die Fruechte der Opfer, die man bringt, sieht. Der grosse Aufwand, den der Englaender treiben muss, verschlingt das ganze Gehalt und nach Hause zurueckgekehrt, muss er, der seine Gesundheit meistens ruiniert hat, in kleinen Verhaeltnissen eingeschraenkt leben. Erst nach einigen Jahren erkennt er draussen die Schwaechen und Fehler der Regierung und wird unzufrieden, da er nicht an den Erfolg seiner Arbeit und seiner Opfer glaubt.

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Anstatt, dass die Presse in dieser Beziehung hilft und aufklaert, tut sie das Gegenteil. Agitatoren aus England kommen nach Indien, bleiben nur kurze Zeit und verhetzen durch ihre sozialistischen Ideen. Journalisten kommen aus Indien heim und schreiben gegen die Regierung und gegen Indien un - verstandenes Zeug und das Volk glaubt ihnen, da sie ja »in Indien waren«. Hiergegen schreitet die Regierung in London nicht ein.

Seit dem grossen Aufstande in Indien, geht das Bestreben der Regierung dahin, alles zu tun, um eine Wiedererhebung unmoeglich zu machen. Die Mittel und Wege, die sie einschlug, sind ja meistens bekannt - ich sprach schon von dem Ausbau der Eisenbahnen und der einheitlichen Neu-Organisation der Armee.- Ein grosses Telegrafennetz ueberspannt ganz Indien und befestigte Plaetze dienen zur Aufnahme der Europaeer im Augenblick der Gefahr. Ferner wird von den Englaendern ein grosses, geregeltes Spionagesystem unterhalten, das soweit geht, dass mir sogar der Kaiserliche Generalkonsul, Graf Luxburg, sagte, er sei fest davon ueberzeugt, dass seine ganze Korrespondenz geoeffnet wuerde.

Das Verhaeltnis der englischen Offiziere zu ihren eingeborenen Kameraden erscheint fuer den »Uneingeweihten« vorzueglich, dem ist aber nicht so. Auch sehen die Offiziere der englischen Armee auf ihre Kameraden in der Indian Army herab.

Die Regierung hat in der Verwaltung eingeborene Elemente aufgenommen und man trifft sehr gebildete Leute unter den Beamten. Diese Eingeborenen sind das ausgleichende Element, sie sollten belehrend und beruhigend wirken, doch ist das nicht allgemein der Fall.

Niemand weiss heute besser, als die Regierung selbst, dass eine grosse innere Gefahr vorhanden ist, wenn die zustaendigen Stellen es auch abzuleugnen suchen. Sie be -

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steht darin, dass das Haeuflein Weisser - die Armee besteht aus:

75 000 Mann reinenglischer Truppen,
151 000 indischen Offizieren und Mannschaften
unter dem Befehl des Commander in Chief, ferner
22 000 Mann eingeborener Truppen,
38 000 Reserven,
die nicht unter dessen Kommando stehen, und
34 500 organisierte Polizeimannschaften, sowie
75 000 Freiwilligen -

den 235 Millionen Einwohnern, sobald letztere nur einigermassen geeint auftreten werden, weichen muessten.

Die vielen Rassen und Sekten und die Kastenunter - schiede wiederum in den letzteren, liessen eine Einigung fuer ganz unmoeglich erscheinen, doch haben die Folgeerscheinungen aus dem Tripolis- und den Balkankriegen die Englaender eines anderen belehrt. Auch die Erfolge der Japaner muessen hier angefuehrt werden.

Es sind deutliche Anzeichen dafuer vorhanden von einer Annaeherung der zwei groessten Religionskasten in Indien, der Mohamedaner und der Hindus zur Wahrung ihrer, wie sie meinen, gemeinsam bedrohten Interessen. Es herrscht unbedingt eine allgemeine Erbitterung gegen die Englaender, die sie selbst grossgezogen haben und nicht mehr eindaemmen koennen und daher zugleich auch Unzufriedenheit unter den Englaendern in Indien mit ihrer eigenen Regierung.

Aus der Kultur, die sie dem Lande bringen wollten, aus den Schulen sind ihnen ihre geheimen Widersacher erstanden.

Mohamedanerkreise erstreben diese Annaeherung an ihre bisherigen Totfeinde, die Hindus.

In Lahore, der Hauptstadt des Punshabs, hat sich eine » Moslemhindu Union Association » vor einigen Monaten

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gebildet, deren Praesident der einflussreiche, angesehene Nawab Fateh Ali Kahn und deren Sekretaer der Hindu Rai Bahadur Mohon Lal ist. Diese erste Association hat Nachahmer gefunden. Offen und geheim wird agitiert und ich habe die Spuren selbst verfolgen koennen.

In Damaskus tauchte gleich nach dem Kriege im Juli 1913 Sir Afsur el Mulk, der einflussreichste Mann im unabhaengigen Mohamedanerstaat Hyderabad und Oberstkommandierender der 12 000 Mann starken Armee des Neizams auf. Man huldigte ihm ueberall, er blieb drei Monate in Damaskus und ging zwei Mal nach Mekka und Medina, dann nach Bagdad usw.

Ich wohnte jetzt zwei Wochen bei ihm in der grossen Mohamedanerstadt Hyderabad und fand dort ein sehr reges Interesse fuer alle, die Tuerkei betreffenden Fragen. Angesehene Hindus verkehrten in seinem gastfreien Hause und ich bin fast davon ueberzeugt, dass diese Reise nicht ohne einen bestimmten Zweck gewesen ist, obwohl Sir Afsur vollkommen loyal erscheint; denn bald nach seinem Besuche in Damaskus erschien dort ein einflussreicher, eingeborener, indischer Regierungsbeamter, Mitglied des gesetzgebenden Rates des Vizekoenigs in Delhi. Er brachte seinen Privatsekretaer mit und verhandelte Wochen lang mit allen Scheichs und Hodjas (Priestern) Auch er ging dann nach Mekka und Medina und unternahm andere Reisen.

Welch grosse Summen aus Indien zur Unterstuetzung nach der Tuerkei gingen, ist bekannt, nicht vielleicht die Tatsache, dass die Aermsten dazu beisteuerten. In den letzten Wochen war eine tuerkische Abordnung in Delhi und Lahore, um den Dank der tuerkischen Regierung auszusprechen und weitere Propaganda zu machen.

Bisher war die grosse Feindschaft zwischen Mohamedanern und Hindus eine der Hauptstuetzen der englischen Macht und man hat geflissentlich auch nie etwas getan, um diese

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Feindschaft auszugleichen. Im Gegenteil, in der Armee sind in den einheimischen Regimentern die Bataillone, oder Schwadronen aus verschiedenen, sich unter einander feindlich gesinnten Rassen rekrutiert und zwar so, dass z.B. in einem Regiment ein Bataillon Mohamedaner, ein Bataillon Sikhs, ein Bataillon Hindus, oder Patans, oder Gorkas ist.

Die selbstaendigen eingeborenen Staaten haengen geografisch absichtlich nicht unter sich zusammen und, wuerde ein Aufstand in einem dieser Staaten ausbrechen, so wuerde man einen anderen mit der Unterdrueckung betrauen- denn sie sind sich alle feindlich gesinnt. Der verstorbene Minister Salah Jung des Neizams von Hyderabad war es z.B., der 1857 der englischen Regierung treu blieb, den Nachbarstaat Myssor in Schach hielt und vereitelte, dass der dort meuternde Maharaja nach Jansi marschieren konnte. Er wurde spaeter deshalb in England als " Retter Indiens " begruesst. Hier scheint jedoch jetzt eine Wandlung einzutreten.

In Bikanner, Baroda, Hyderabad, Gwallior und Myssor sind heute junge Herrscher am Ruder, die fast alle in England ihre Erziehung genossen haben und mehr, oder weniger eine neue Aera in ihren Staaten begruenden moechten. Der Zwischenfall des Gaikwars von Baroda anlaesslich des Durbars ist ja allgemein bekannt. Der Maharaja Scindia in Gwallior hat sich ganz von der englischen Bemutterung losgemacht und regiert sein Land vollkommen selbstaendig, die gleiche Erscheinung findet man in Myssor. In Hyderabad aber ist ein junger Heisssporn am Ruder, der alle bisherigen Beamten entliess und sich mit jungen Leuten seines Landes umgeben hat - alle Englaender langsam beiseite schiebend. Sein Minister ist 32, sein Kriegsminister 29 Jahre alt. Diese jungen Herscher denken, sie koennen nun alleine regieren, da sie es schon ausgiebig von den Englaendern gelernt haben wollen. Nicht nur die oberen zehntausend, nein, jeder

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sogenannte » Gebildete » will mitregieren. Und damit komme ich auf die wirkliche, einzige Gefahr in Indien zu sprechen. Sie liegt begruendet in der Bildung, welche englische Staatsmaenner der aermeren Bevoelkerung in Indien haben bringen wollen, einem Volke, das dazu gar nicht reif ist. Zu spaet hat man das in England erkannt und kann sich nun nicht helfen, kein Mittel finden, um dem Uebel abzu - helfen.

In den Kasten, die jede ihr eigenes Hand - werk trieb, wurde dieses vom Vater auf den Sohn vererbt. Nun will jeder etwas besseres werden, man treibt in den vielen Schulen oberflaechliche Studien und nur ein geringer Teil besteht die vorgeschriebenen Examina, oder erfuellt die Bedingungen, um zugelassen zu werden. Aber selbst fuer die Wenigen, welche bestehen, sind nicht genuegende Stellen vorhanden. Diese und die Nichtzugelassenen sind die geheimen Aufruehrer. Landwirtschaft, praktisches Handwerk, wollen sie nicht lernen, ihr Duenkel will hoeher hinaus. Diese missvergnuegten Elemente draengen sich um die jungen Fuer - sten und verdraengen ihre bisherigen Ratgeber, die Englaender. Durch das weitverbreitete Freimaurerwesen, das in den letzten Jahren grosse Fortschritte gemacht hat, werden die Sektenunterschiede aufgehoben, wenigstens bei den sogenannten » Gebildeten ».

Ich machte in Indien dieselbe Beobachtung, wie in der Tuerkei bezueglich der jungen Leute, die studien - halber nach Europa geschickt werden: sie kommen zum groessten Teil verdorben zurueck, ergeben sich einem aus - schweifenden Leben und dem Trunke. Ueberhaupt sieht man in Indien viele Einheimische dem Alkohol froehnen.

Grosse Erfolge sind von den Englaendern in der Eindaemmung der Seuchengefahr und der periodisch auf - tretenden Hungersnot erzielt worden, aber auch dies werden

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Die grosse Frage ist demnach die: Kann eine demokratische Regierung das grosse, indische Reich auf die Dauer unter solchen Verhaeltnissen regieren? Von dieser Frage haengt der Ruin oder Fortbestand ab.

Ich kann mir Indien ohne die Englaender nicht denken, sie haben auf allen Gebieten so enorm viel geleistet und besonders Nordindien ist so verenglisiert, dass ich glauben moechte, die Verhaeltnisse werden von vielen zu pessimistisch beurteilt.

Eine feste Regierung, die willens ist, den oben angefuehrten Erscheinungen, die ihr nicht unbekannt geblieben sind, bei Zeiten entgegenzutreten, sollte meines Erachtens Mittel und Wege finden, den grossen, einmal gewonnenen Einfluss weiter auszubauen und die Machstellung der weissen Rasse sich nicht wieder entwinden zu lassen.

G. von Hochwaechter.
Oberleutn. a. D.

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1. Die Zusicherung

Zu d.
Hauptmemorial.

vom

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zu senden.

2. Z. d. A.

F. A.

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Ferner sind die Errichtung eines » Indian staff college » in Dealali und Quetta, einer Cavalry school of in - struction zu nennen.

Die Bewaffnung der regulaeren Armee ist neu, mit den sogenannten » short rifles with new pattern bayonets».

Verschiedene, einheimische Waffenfabriken sind entstanden, wie die Rifle and gun factory in Ischapur und die Gun factory in Cossipore usw. Die Ausgaben fuer das Militaer sind seit 1903 von 19 Millionen auf 22 Millionen Pfund Ster - ling gestiegen.

Ende 1913 waren in Indien vorhanden:

52 Bataillone britischer Infanterie,
9 Regimenter britischer Kavallerie (zu 4 Schwadronen)
137 Regimenter indischer Infanterie
39 Regimenter indischer Kavallerie (zu 4 Schwadronen) ohne die bei Fuersten attachierten Schwadronen und Leibgarden.
11 Batterieen Royal Horse Artillery mit Munitionskolonnen.
45 Batterieen Royal Field Artillery,
6 schwere Batterieen und
5 Signal Kompagnieen.

Die Armee ist demnach seit 1905 um 6 Infanterie-Regimenter, 3 Kavallerie-Regimenter und 5 Batterieen gewachsen.

STAERKEZUSAMMENSETZUNG.

Britische Offiziere	6 135	
Brit. Warrant and non commissioned officers and men	73 472	
Indian officers and men	151 038	
	230 635	unter dem Befehl des Commander in Chief.

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Britische Offiziers	7
Indian Officers and men	22 100
Reserven	38 907
	60 907 nicht unter dem Befehl des Commander in Chief.

(Die Reserven muessen drei Jahre gedient haben und alle zwei Jahre zwei Monate dienen, ihre Staerke soll auf 50 000 Mann erhoeht werden.)

Freiwillige (volunteers):75 000

(Die Volunteers bestehen aus foot und mounted rifle regiments, light horse und garrison artillery und werden zur Hafen-, Eisenbahn- und Ortsverteidigung verwendet.)

Auxiliary forces - military police:	21 500
in der der Border Military police:	13 500
	35 000

Die britischen Regimenter bilden das Fundament, auf dem sich alles andere aufbaut und leider sehen diese Offiziere auf ihre englischen Kameraden in der Indian Army herab, was von letzteren sehr empfunden wird. Auch besteht ein grosser Unterschied - ebenso leider, wie bei uns - darin, ob ein junger Mann in der Infanterie, oder Kavallerie dient!

Die Disciplin ist viel besser, als ich erwartet hatte, sie zeigt sich nicht nur im Gehorsam und in der Strammheit waehrend des Dienstes, sondern auch ausser Dienst, sogar jedem Europaeer gegenueber. Dabei sind die meisten der ein - heimischen Elemente durch die Verhaeltnisse zu einer Anhaeng - lichkeit an die Regimenter und ihre Fuehrer erzogen, die wirklich erstaunlich ist. Fast alle indischen Regimenter sind aus Freiwilligen zusammengesetzt, die schon als junge Bengels eintreten und zu Kasernendienst, Pferdeputzen usw. herangezogen

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werden. Oft dienen 3 Generationen zusammen in einem Regiment. Die Leute dienen sehr lange. Nach 18 Jahren sind sie pensionsberechtigt und erhalten 4 Rupieen den Monat (das ist fuer einen Inder sehr viel). Diese Pension wird ihnen durch die Post ausgezahlt und die Kontrolle durch Fingerabdruecke geuebt. Es gibt auch Leute, die 30 und mehr Jahre dienen. Durch diese lange Dienstzeit wird natuerlich die Einzelausbildung sehr gut, obwohl der taegliche Dienst -bei der grossen Hitze von selbst geboten- nur wenige Stunden betraegt. Als

BEISPIEL fuer den DIENSTBETRIEB will ich die 11.Lancers in Delhi anfuehren, welche dieselben Ausbildungsmethoden haben, wie die 18.Lancers in Meerut oder die 1. und 2. Lancers in Hyderabad. Diese Regimenter gelten als die besten.

Die Leute werden zu je zweien zusammen eingestellt und leben zusammen, der eine muss ueber die Sachen des anderen wachen, solange einer nicht da ist. Der Mann brachte frueher sein eigenes Pferd mit, jetzt bekommt er es von seinem Regiment geliefert, da die Regimenter alle selbst Pferde ziehen, er zahlt einige Pfund an, der Rest wird ihm in kleinen Raten von der Loehnung abgehalten. Dadurch sorgt der Mann ganz anders fuer sein Pferd. Die Unterbringung der Mannschaften ist dem Klima und den Gewohnheiten entsprechend, dabei ist alles so praktisch, wie nur moeglich ausgedacht. Die Baracks sind lange, niedere, zusammenhaengende Wohnungen. Die

VERHEIRATETEN haben ihr besonderes Quartier und jeder Mann mit seiner Familie einen abgesonderten, kleinen Hof mit zwei Kammern. Die

UNTEROFFIZIERE haben etwas groessere Raeumlichkeiten, mit vergitterter Verandah und Blumen, alles ist peinlich sauber gehalten.

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Die **UNIFORM** wird jaehrlich in einer Garnitur geliefert und ist praktisch in Farbe und schnitt. Nichts ist daran auffallend, alles Lederzeug ist dunkel und alle Metallteile oxydiert. Die **PARADE- und KRIEGSMONTUREN** sind in besonderen Pavillions, Kammern, Kompagnie- bezw.Schwadronsweise untergebracht. Ebenso gibt es **WAFFENKAMMERN** in denen die Gewehre zu je 20 in einem verschliessbaren Gestell aufbewahrt werden. Seit dem grossen Aufstand sind die Englaender ja darin sehr vorsichtig geworden, z.B. nehmen die britischen Truppen ihre Gewehre am Sonntag geladen mit in die Kirche und die einheimischen Regimenter haben teilwiese nur alte Modelle und die Magazingewehre sind in Einladegewehre umgewandelt worden. Die Artillerie ist nur britisch. die einheimische Artillerie kommt fuer einen Krieg kaum ernsthaft in Frage. Teilweise ist sie mit Bueffeln, ja sogar mit Elefanten bespannt und schiesst mit Schwarzpulver. Der **DIENST** wird groesstenteils von einheimischen Offizieren abgehalten, die wiederum von britischen ueberwacht werden. Meist sind 13 britische Offiziere in einem einheimischen Regiment, mit Ausnahme der selbstaendigen Kontingente, wie z.B. Hyderabad oder Gwallior, wo nur sehr wenige britische Offiziere sind. Die **INDISCHEN OFFIZIERE** sind zum groessten Teile sehr gebildet und bescheiden. Sie kennen ihren inneren Dienstbetrieb aus dem F F und sind sehr pflichttreu, haben ihre Kasinos, koennen alle mehr oder weniger englisch und sind stolz auf die Tradition ihrer Regimenter und ihre sportlichen Erfolge. Als die 18.Lancers bei der grossen Sportwoche in Delhi bei einer Beteiligung von 27 Kavallerieregimentern im »Tent pegging« siegreich hervorgingen und den wundervollen Silberpreis aus der

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Hand von Lady Hardinge erhielten, war heller Jubel und grosse Begeisterung.

Besonderen Wert in der Ausbildung wird auf das koerperliche Training, auf die Schiess- und Reitfertigkeit und selbstaendiges Benehmen des einzelnen Mannes gelegt und darin habe ich sehr Gutes gesehen; das taktische Wissen der Offiziere ist sehr gering.

Die Englaender haben sehr richtig erkannt, dass die Regimenter stets marschbereit sein und grosse Strapazen zu ertragen gewoehnt sein muessen. Daraufhin ist alles ab - gezielt. Das Gepaeck des Mannes, seine Zeltausruestung, Proviant und Munition. Ebenso, wie der Mann, wird das Pferd dazu trainiert. Dies ist nur dadurch erreichbar, indem Dienst und Sport Hand in Hand gehen.

Jeder freie Augenblick wird bei der Infanterie dazu benutzt, Fussball, oder andere Spiele zu treiben. Das Schiessen ist ein Sport geworden. die Scheibenstaende sind vorzueglich und mit den neuesten Maschinen ausgeruestet, da ist kein Geld gespart. Fast jede Woche finden Preisschiessen statt und es ist eine so grosse Ehre, etwas besonderes zu leisten, dass jeder sein bestes hergibt. Auf dieses Schiessen wird sehr viel Wert gelegt und grosse Abwechselung in die Ausbildung gebracht. Zum Scharfschiessen steht reichliche Munition zur Verfuegung. Bei der Kavallerie wird besonders auf die Ausbildung im Gefecht zu Fuss geachtet. Ich sah sehr praktische Arten, den Karabiner auf dem Ruecken zu tragen, oder am Pferde, wobei Wert darauf gelegt wird, ihn schnell zur Hand zu haben. Die Lanze -alle Regimenter sind mit der Bambuslanze bewaffnet - wird am Sattel befestigt, sobald der Reiter absitzt und sie bleibt im Gleichgewicht, auch bei Pferdeevolutionen der Handpferde. Diese braunen natives sind vorzuegliche Schuetzen und kriechen wie Schlangen durchs Gelände.

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Jedes Kavallerieregiment hat einen Polopony - Stall, der dem Regiment gehoert. Diese Pferde werden im Ernstfalle als Patrouillenpferde verwandt und sind dazu ausersehen, grosse Anstrengungen auszuhalten.

Man muss dem Englaender zugestehen - im Gelaende versteht er zu reiten und er versteht es, seine Pferde dazu abzurichten. Wer selbst das »Pig Sticking« (Schweinestechen) im hohen Dschungel und im erdspaltenreichen Gelaende mit - geritten hat, kann das beurteilen.

Die jungen Rekruten werden schon auf Decke einzeln und in kleinen Abteilungen ueber das schwierigste Ge - laende gejagt und machen ihre Sache fabelhaft gut; ich hoerte nie ein Schimpfwort; es ist bei diesen Leuten selbstverstaendlich, dass sie ihren Fuehrern nachreiten. Das

MENSCHENMATERIAL ist teilweise vorzueglich. Die Sikhs, Khayber Rifles, Patans und Gorkas sind beruehmt und geben das beste Rekrutenmaterial. Diese Leute kommen aus dem Norden, sie sind kampfgewohnt von Jugend auf, hohe schlanke Gestalten von der afghanischen Grenze.

Eine grosse Rolle spielte die Remontierung der Armee. Hierin ist in wenigen Jahren grossartiges geleistet worden und dies Beispiel zeigt so recht, wie der Englaender sich seinen Kolonieen anpasst. Eine dienstbrauchbare, indische Remonte gab es fruecher nicht. Die Pferde mussten importiert werden und das war sehr kostspielig. Vor Jahren hat deshalb die Regierung den Regimentern Land gegeben, um es selbst zu bewirtschaften. Sie hatte dabei mehrere Gesichtspunkte im Auge. Die 11.Lancers nennen nicht weniger als 20 000 acres Land (1 acre ist gleich 140 Quadratmetern) ihr eigen. Neuerdings ist wieder verschiedenen Regimentern Land bewilligt worden. Dieses Land wurde durch den Ausbau der Bahnen und des Be - waesserungs-Systems teilweise sehr wertvoll, man kaufte arabi-

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bische und australische Pferde an und heute sind z.B. die 11.Lancers nicht nur imstande, ihren ganzen Remontenbedarf selbst zu decken, sondern sie verkaufen noch an andere Regimenter. Sie haben ein eigenes Haus und siedeln alte gediente Soldaten als Farmer an, die von pensionierten, indischen Offizieren ueberwacht werden. So zieht die Regierung und die Armee ihren Nutzen aus dieser wohlangebrachten Anordnung. Aus der Kreuzung der einheimischen Mutterstute mit arabischen, englischen und australischen Blut ist ein gutes Remontepferd geworden.

Ich koennte noch vieles anfuehren, wie z.B. die vorzuegliche Hufpflege. Die Pferde gehen ohne Eisen und haben herrliche Hufe. Der Huf wird nicht ausgeschnitten und der Strahl liegt ganz hoch.

Die

KOMMANDOSPRACHE ist einheitlich, nur englisch. Die Infanterie marschiert sehr leicht, nach Art der Bersaglieris und Paraden werden mustergiltig abgehalten.-

Dies alles zeigt, dass die indische Armee den Verhaeltnissen entsprechend, fuer das Land angepasst, gedrillt wird. Grosse, taktische Uebungen erscheinen mir, nachdem, was ich gesehen habe, nicht moeglich, da der Generalstab die Schulung nicht besitzt. Erst jetzt beginnt man Kriegsgeschichte zu studieren und Kriegsspiele einzufuehren. Der englische Durchschnittsoffizier ist schimmerlos.

Die Befehle fuer eine Felddienstuebung der 12000 Mann aus Hyderabad, der ich beiwohnte, liegen in der Anlage bei. Sie zwingen zu einem mitleeidigen Laecheln! -

Einige junge Generale studieren fremde Kriegswissenschaft und der ruehrigste Mann unter den fuehrenden Generaelen ist der Divisionsgeneral C.V.F.Townshend. Er ist der Verfechter des Grundsatzes, dass die englischen Offiziere

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aus den Lehren des Kriegs ihre Erfahrung schoepfen muessen, und er versucht, trotz grossen Widerstandes, durchzudringen. In der Anlage zwei seiner neueren Schriften, worin er seine Ansicht aus der Napoleonischen und Moltkeschen Taktik klar zu legen sucht. Sie beweisen, wie sehr dies „Anfangsversuche" sind!

Trotz alledem habe ich den Eindruck, dass die Armee vollkommen in der Lage ist, allen Anforderungen, die in absehbarer Zeit in Indien und an dessen Grenzen an sie gestellt werden koennten, gerecht zu werden, besonders, da dass wohl - durchdachte grosse Eisenbahnnetz, die guten Wegeverhaeltnisse und die vielen befestigten Plaetze, sowohl im Innern, als an der Nordwestgrenze und nicht zuletzt die Telegrafenlinien und das wohlausgebildete Trainwesen jede Ueberrumpelung im Innern und jeden Angriff von Aussen als aussichtslos erscheinen lassen. Ueber die systematische Befestigung der Nordwest - grenze und ihren weiteren Ausbau sprach ich schon in meinem Bericht ueber „die sogenannte, indische Gefahr" und fuege in der Anlage einige Bilder der Forts bei Peshawar und des Gelaendes bei, welche beweisen, dass eine Invasion dort auch ohne taktisch geschulte Armee abgewiesen werden kann. Dort sind vor allem Kriegsbrauchbarkeit und Kriegstuechtigkeit des einzelnen Mannes Grundbedingung. Und deshalb hat die englische Armee ihr Hauptaugenmerk bis heute auf die Schulung dieser Eigenschaften in erster Linie gerichtet. Hier ist entschieden Mustergueltiges erreicht worden.

G. von Hochwaechter.
Oberstleutnant a. D.